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BUDGET CUTS PASSED AMID PETTY SNIPIING

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THREE CRASHES, ONE DAY

The Kent Air Ambulance attended three crashes in icy conditions near Barham last Wednesday morning. On the A2 coastbound at 9.50am, a lorry drove into the back of a broken-down vehicle, then jack-knifed and tipped over. Firefighters freed two people before the driver was flown to a London hospital with pelvic, leg and abdominal injuries. On the Elham Valley Road, a car driven by a 20-year-old woman collided with a bus just before 9am. She was flown to the Royal London Hospital. The air ambulance was also called to a man in his 50s who had suffered a broken ankle in a smash on the A2 near Barham at 8.08am. None of the victims' injuries are thought to be life-threatening.

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

THE Westgate Hall will be demolished, the museums aren't safe and charges for a host of services, including parking, will increase.

During a full session of Canterbury council on Thursday – marred by political point-scoring – the budget was passed as agreed by the executive on January 21.

A last-ditch opposition attempt to amend the budget to safeguard the future of the Roman Museum, Westgate Towers and Herne Bay Museum, as well as the Westgate Hall, dragged out an increasingly heated debate for four hours.

But despite this and three passionate speeches from members of the public on the Westgate Hall and museums, no changes to the budget were accepted.

In his opening speech, council leader Cllr John Gilbey emphasised the need to balance the budget and plan for the future.

He said: "We seek to emerge from the recession in the best possible state. The watchword for the coming years will be vigilance, with careful budgetary control and realistic appraisal of our position."

But Liberal Democrat Cllr Jo Calvert-Mindell said: "We have let the community down. We aren't here to speak for ourselves, we are here to represent the community. We are becoming a council that can't do, not a council that can do."

At one point the Tories and opposition seemed close to a consensus on the museums.

The administration pledged to keep the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Protestors hit out at plan for 4,000 homes

BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

THE South Canterbury Residents' Association has hit out at the council ahead of a meeting to discuss the future of the city.

The association is hosting an event tonight about the possibility outlined in the council's Local Development Framework of building up to 4,000 homes on farmland to the south of Canterbury.

Dick Vane-Wright, secretary of the South Canterbury Residents' Association, said: "There are three main issues. Firstly, whether it is necessary to build thousands of housing units in south Canterbury.

"Secondly, if it is, what assurances do we have that this will be developed as a proper community and will take into account all of the needs to do that, given that it will necessarily be done by the private sector?"

"There is no requirement upfront to design in things like water supply, schools, medical facilities, roads, public transport – this all somehow magically comes afterwards.

"Finally, why doesn't Canterbury council engage with local people effectively on these issues?"

Mr Vane-Wright said he hoped the meeting would be a place for people to listen respectfully to the council's plans and ask probing questions and embark on a lively debate.

He said the association was realistic about the possibility of housing being built in south Canterbury, but feels there should more community ownership of the project.

Mr Vane-Wright said: "We have a proposal, which may not be entirely realistic, but then it would lead hopefully to a debate as to how you would get local people engaged in making these sorts of decisions. People need to send their comments to the coun-



PROTEST: The South Canterbury Residents' Association at an earlier protest against Canterbury's proposed football hub

cil. We recognise change is inevitable but it has to be managed properly."

Council chief executive Colin Carmichael said: "We can apply controls on what happens in Canterbury, though the placing of housing needs to be done in a way that fits with the South East Plan.

"We certainly can influence the style of housing, but if we fight on a resistance basis, so that allocation is done by planning application and appeal, we will lose that ability.

"We intend to prepare development briefs on major sites to demonstrate exactly what type of housing we would be prepared to accept.

"I think we do very well in working with our local community and we have an excellent track record in our housing developments."

The meeting is at 7.45pm tonight in the St Nicholas School sports hall in Holme Oak Close, Canterbury. Doors open at 7.15pm.

Anyone with views on the future of south Canterbury should contact the council by March 12.

'Party whip used to clobber old and poor'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

threatened Westgate Hall, Roman and Herne Bay museums open in their current form for at least a year and work with other organisations to find a long-term solution.

However, they still voted to remove £112,600 from the museums budget.

Professor David Birmingham, former head of history at the University of Kent, gave an impassioned speech in favour of the Roman Museum and Westgate Towers.

He said: "What I think about the meeting isn't printable.

"The way the party whip was used in such a blood-curdling way to clobber the old, the poor and the voluntary services was heart-rending.

"It was just petty arguments about who said what. It was abysmal, there was no substance."

Charles Lambie, Canterbury Archaeological Trust's chairman of trustees, was also saddened an agreement on museums was not reached.

Bob Long, from the salsa group which uses the Westgate Hall, said he was disappointed by political sniping.

Lib Dem leader Cllr Alex Perkins denied any of his councillors had made personal or inappropriate remarks during the meeting.

Cllr Gilbey said remarks were made in the heat of the moment which were stronger than intended. Both leaders denied using a party whip.

Boy, 8, left injured by hit-and-run driver

POLICE are hunting a hit-and-run driver after an eight-year-old boy suffered serious leg injuries.

Officers were called to the Iceland store car park in Maynard Road at Wincheap on Friday afternoon after reports a boy had been hit by a car.

He suffered leg fractures and was airlifted to the William Harvey Hospital at Ashford where he is due to have surgery.

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision at about 3.20pm.

It is believed a learner driver may have been in the car park at the time and he or she, and their instructor, may have seen what happened.

It is also thought two men helped the child after the crash. One may have been wearing a Morrisons uniform.

Witnesses are asked to call PC Matt Jackson from East Kent's roads policing unit on 01622 690690, quoting reference 19-798.

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Find out if singing can help you stay healthy

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

SHAKESPEARE said music is the food of love, but it may also be the secret to good health in old age.

A Canterbury academic has acquired £250,000 in funding to test the theory by getting people over 60 who don't currently sing to try it out so he can test the benefits.

This pioneering project will be led by Professor Stephen Clift, research director of Christ Church University's Sidney De Haan research centre.

He said: "We are interested in whether being involved in an enjoyable activity like singing might help delay the onset of dementia."

"There are also implications in terms of mood and issues to do with depression and anxiety, mobility and feeling isolated."

"Older people can have problems with their breathing, so we will see whether singing can help them manage that better."

Volunteers for the singing groups will be randomly assigned into two groups. One group will be asked to sing with a song club once a week for three months.

The other group will not sing to begin with so the difference can be compared, but will later get a chance to join in with the music.

The project might also mean big savings to the health service and social services if singing can improve people's health.

Professor Clift said: "If people sing regularly they may be better able to control their breathing and to recognise when potential problems are developing and manage them better."



BENEFITS: Singing could help people control their breathing and recognise potential problems as they arise

"We don't know that is the case but even if you could prevent a small number of people having to be hospitalised, the cost saving could be quite considerable."

"A number of GPs and respiratory consultants in East Kent think it is an issue really worth researching because it could well make a difference to the quality of life of people with chronic respiratory illness."

Roma Buscall, from Age Concern Whitstable, said: "Anything that can improve people's social interaction and health is an excellent idea."

"The majority of our clients are in the upper

age bracket and it would be very difficult for them to leave their homes and attend a venue to sing without transport, but we know all the clients who attend our day centre really enjoy singing."

Singing groups will take place in community centres in Whitstable, Boughton-under-Blean, Broadstairs, Birchington and Ramsgate.

Regular sessions will begin in April, but there will be taster sessions before Easter.

Anyone who is over 60, is not part of a singing group and wants to get involved should call Isobel Salisbury on 01303 242 031.

'Superb' hospital saves councillor

A COUNCILLOR has praised all who helped him at the Kent and Canterbury hospital after he suffered a heart attack two weeks ago.

Cllr Nick Eden-Green, pictured, a former Lord Mayor, has called the city's hospital "the most superb" and has said the staff "could not have been more professional".



Cllr Eden-Green, 65, said: "Several years ago many of us were campaigning for the future of our hospital. At one point I was demonstrating with the mayoral chain on!"

"If my experience is anything to go on, we now have the most superb hospital in Canterbury."

Professional

"Within seconds of my arrival I was on a bed. Within minutes I was seen by a doctor; then by a team of doctors. Within hours I was in the coronary care ward."

"The staff could not have been more professional. Diagnosis and the start of treatment was virtually immediate."

"The nursing teams on Taylor ward were caring, friendly and reassuring. The ward was spotlessly clean."

The Westgate ward councillor said the only downside to his experience was a bumpy ambulance ride down the potholed A28 for a final procedure in Ashford to see a "brilliant" cardiologist.

Cllr Eden-Green said: "I feel very strongly that where people have done far more than one would expect, they deserve a bit of acknowledgement."

"We have a hospital to be proud of staffed by true professionals who should in turn be proud of what they do."

Cllr Eden-Green is on the way to a full recovery and hopes to resume an active part in council life this week.

Re-arrested hours after leaving prison

ARRESTED 17 times since June, a one-woman crime wave breached her anti-social behaviour order within hours of being released from prison.

Alison Macmillan, 56, of St Peter's Grove in Canterbury, was arrested at 10.30pm on Thursday, February 18, just seven days after being made the subject of a two-year ASBO.

That was after being jailed for seven days by magistrates for contempt of court.

Macmillan appeared before magistrates in Dover on Saturday morning.

Since June she has been arrested for burglary, theft, public order offences, being drunk and disorderly, harassment and bail offences.

Her ASBO bans Macmillan from being drunk, possessing an open container of alcohol in a public place and using abusive or threatening words or behaviour.

She is also banned from entering St Peter's Street, The Friars, the High Street or Best Lane between 7pm and 8am, from going into The Cricketers pub at any time and from calling the emergency services where there is no danger to life or property.

Some bright ideas for pier at Herne Bay cost £10,000

A REPORT into the future of Herne Bay Pier has laid out options to make the most of the attraction.

Consultants concluded the pier was not financially viable in its current form, but could be redeveloped.

The £10,000 report by Humberts Leisure has said the pavilion should be demolished, but the structure underneath should remain.

Humberts then suggest using the area for deckchair hire, fishing, events like the Herne Bay Festival and perhaps exhibitions and farmers' markets.

The consultants suggest a second phase where the pier could be redeveloped into a traditional family seaside attraction with Victorian rides, a restaurant, stalls and shops.

In the longer term, Humberts suggest two options. One would involve turning the pier into a contemporary art gallery with studios and a quality restaurant to rival similar developments in Whitstable and Margate.

The other option would be to turn the pier into a water-sports centre for windsurfing, sailing, jetskiing

and waterskiing, training rooms, a club house, restaurant and stores.

Herne Bay Regeneration Panel chairman Councillor Peter Lee said: "The report demonstrates the pier has a significant future as a visitor attraction at the heart of the town."

"It sets out positive and realistic options for consideration and I look forward to the debate in the town before the council takes any decisions on what to do next."

Questions

Representatives from Humberts Leisure will be at the Herne Bay regeneration exhibition at Kings Hall from 3-7pm on Wednesday, March 24 to answer questions.

A two-month period of public consultation on the pier has just begun and people are asked to send comments to the council's director of environment, David Reed, by Monday, April 19 at the council offices or david.reed@canterbury.gov.uk. The report can be found online and copies are available from Angela Furlong on 01227 862 400.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Data protection lecture aims to promote debate

DATA protection is the topic of the next in a series of political debates with parliamentary candidates and the MP for the area.

The Labour Party's Jean Samuel will be speaking on Friday, February 26 at one of Christ Church University's 'Making Politics Matter' events.

Her talk will be on 'Rights and benefits of holding personal data – Balancing the individual and society'.

The idea of the lectures is to encourage public debate in the area.

Dr David Bates, director of politics and international relations at the university, said: "The capacity to record, store, use and share personal data is one of the most topical and contentious issues currently under discussion."

"We look forward to hearing Jean's views, and crucially, the views of the public on this issue."

The debate will begin at 7pm at the university's Old Sessions House lecture theatre on North Holmes Road in Canterbury and is open to all.

Your spare shoe boxes could be museum piece

THE Herne Bay museum needs your shoe boxes.

The curators are running an event on March 6 called Herne Bay in a shoe box, and they need anybody with the containers to spare to bring them in as soon as they can.

Box-owners are requested to bring their deliveries to the Whitstable Museum by Tuesday, March 2 or to the Herne Bay Museum by Friday, March 5.

'Credit crunch' gym will help you keep fit for less

THE recession has prompted a company to open a no-frills gym in Canterbury for customers feeling the pinch.

After a £250,000 refurbishment, Fit4less is opening on Lower Bridge Street in March with gym equipment and changing facilities.

But there will be no spas, steam rooms or saunas and fitness classes and personal trainers cost extra.

The new gym will also create five jobs.

Charlie chuffed at train role's success

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A TALENTED young star has become a global hit as a character in an animation dubbed the modern-day Thomas the Tank Engine.

Charlie George, from Canterbury, has just finished recording the second series of Chuggington, the UK's third highest-rated children's programme of all time.

The series was launched on BBC2 in September 2008 and has been rolled out to 170 countries worldwide. It re-launched on children's channel CBeebies in 2009.

Charlie, 12, is one of the talents behind its success, providing the voice for a train called Brewster.

The Canterbury High pupil has just finished recording the second series in London and is awaiting news of a third.

He said: "I do about two to three hours of recording and that is then taken away to be put with the animation."

London-based company Ludorum – the creator of children's favourites Barney and Bob the Builder – is behind the CGI animation.

Industry experts believe it will become as popular as the much-loved Thomas the Tank Engine series.

Charlie said: "I really enjoy doing this kind of work. I'm a little worried that my voice may break soon though."



GLOBAL SUCCESS: The Chuggington trains with Brewster centre, and right, young actor Charlie George

"I'm hoping I'll still have quite a high voice, because I also do the voice for Jess in the animation Guess with Jess."

The talented youngster first got involved in performing at a Saturday school and was selected to help an undergraduate on a short film.

His career soared and he was selected for the part of Brewster after impressing the director and co-director with his "exciting" voice.

He has just finished a run in the West End in the musical Oliver! and has also appeared in a number of TV programmes.

Charlie said: "I love this work, but it can be quite stressful. The hardest part is not always

seeing my friends and it can be tiring when I have schoolwork to do as well."

"My education is important to me though. I'd love to continue this as my career, but I have to have a backup plan if it falls through."

Charlie's mum Alison said the family are very proud of him.

"He's very chatty and full of energy which you need in this kind of work – he works very hard," she added.

A mini-series of Chuggington airs later this year along with the launch of a range of merchandise, including books, toys, puzzles and DVDs.



Birthday girl's marathon bid

A RUNNER hopes to boost funds for a charity by running a marathon on her 58th birthday.

Wendy De Boick, who works at the front counter at Canterbury police station, will run the 26.2 miles of the London Marathon to raise money for Age Concern.

A member of the Canterbury Harriers running group, she started running because she wanted to achieve something amazing for her 50th birthday and she ran her first marathon a few days before the celebrations.

Mrs De Boick said: "I have really got the bug. I joined the club to get the coaching and now do

relays and cross-country. I completed the Canterbury 10-mile race on January 31, have got the Thanet 20-mile next month and the Paddock Wood half marathon a fortnight before London."

To help the runner raise money for Age Concern, sign her sponsorship form at the Canterbury police station's front counter.

Mrs De Boick said: "The charity does not get as much publicity as the groups and organisations dedicated to younger people, but it does an amazing job for vulnerable people and can transform their lives as a result."

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ALLOTED SPACE: Residents have set up a group in a bid to find sites that can be used to grow their own produce

Barrow brigade sowing seeds for future allotments

ALLOTMENTS are often not high on developers' list of priorities, leaving little room for green-fingered householders.

To try and find a solution, residents in Great Chart and Singleton have formed the Barrow and Spade Brigade that wants to find a space for community-run allotments.

Alisa Yingling, chair of the group said: "There is a growing awareness of where our food is coming from and many people don't feel right about shipping in food from around the world, especially when they live in the Garden of England."

"Nothing is as gratifying as planting a little seedling and tasting the incredible flavours that come from your own runner beans and potatoes."

The group formed last summer and already has a long waiting list of people who would like their own patch of ground.

Sonata Winchester another member of the group said: "Many of the gardens in the area are quite small. First we looked into getting people on a waiting list and now we are looking for a spot of land. We have had tremendous support from the community."

Allotments are becoming increasingly popular but finding new sites is difficult. Ashford council's own sites already have a

■ BY ED HILL

huge waiting list; a problem that is common across the UK.

Ms Winchester said: "We still have not got a site because it is quite an involved process. We first have to identify potential plots of land that are not about to be developed and are not used for agriculture. Then we have to approach the owners to see if they would be happy to lease the land."

The group is holding a meeting this week to discuss the idea with interested parties and to invite other members of the public who would like to take part.

Home grown produce will be available so people can see what can be achieved when they turn their hand DIY horticulture.

Ms Winchester said: "We would obviously like a big enough piece of land to meet the needs of the community but we would be grateful for whatever we can get. We want to get the word out there that our community has this need."

The Barrow and Spade Brigade will be holding its meeting at Great Chart Village Hall on Wednesday February 24 at 7.30pm.

For more information about the Great Chart and Singleton Community Allotments visit <http://singletonallotments.wordpress.com> or call 01233 884 908.

yourcanterbury

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moonlit walk for hospices

IF you enjoy moonlit walks on balmy summer nights why not try doing one for charity?

The Pilgrims Hospices have just launched their programme of women-only moonlight walks so participants can have fun, help a good cause and remember a loved one.

This year there are three routes – one in Deal on June 5, another in Ashford on June 26 and a final autumnal route between Herne Bay and Whitstable on September 18.

Fundraising manager Deborah Kellond said: "This event has been a huge hit in previous years."

"Last year 1,500 walkers raised £170,000 for Pilgrim's Hospices and we were amazed at the turnout. This year we are hoping to reach our target of 3,500 walkers raising £350,000."

For details or to register go to www.pilgrimsmoonlightwalk.org or call 01227 782 062.

Sign up for half-marathon

A DATE has been set for the Canterbury charity half-marathon and organisers are hoping for more entries than ever.

This is the sixth year the event has been run in aid of the Pilgrims Hospices.

Last year's race raised more than £20,000 and more than 900 people took part. This year organisers hope to get 1,200 involved.

Susan Booth, the charity's head of fundraising, said: "I would urge anyone who runs to come and give this half marathon a go as it is a real challenge and very satisfying to complete."

The event is at 9.30am on Sunday, May 23 at Canterbury Rugby club. For more information or to download a sponsor form call 01252 373 797 or go to www.pilgrimshospice.org

Cash for redundant staff

A WINDFALL of £100,000 will allow redundancy savings to be made more quickly, according to the council.

The organisation has received the money as reimbursement for the cost of the government's new concessionary bus fares scheme.

According to the council the money will be used to give staff who are laid off immediate redundancy packages rather than take the money from their department's budget.



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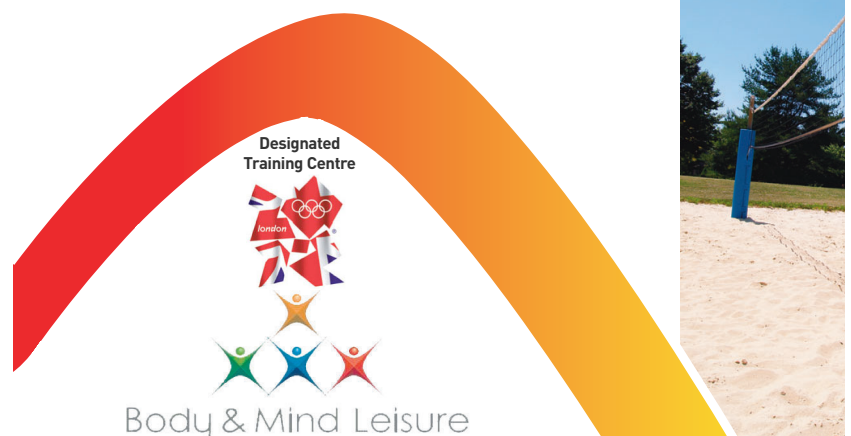
Pupils show musical talents in concert

THE oldest specialist music school in the country is holding a concert this weekend of Rachmaninov, Brahms and a pupil's own composition.

Performers from the Purcell School will showcase their talent in front of all-comers at 7.30pm on Sunday, February 28.

The programme for the evening includes Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3, Brahms' Symphony No. 1 and a work by the school's composition competition winner Chatherine Cheung.

Tickets are £5 from the school on 01923 331 117. The concert will be held in the King's School's Shirley Hall in the cathedral precincts.



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Remembering the Few at 70

■ BY MIKE BENNETT

A SERIES of spectacular events will take place in Kent this summer to mark the 70th anniversary of the greatest air battle in history.

The Battle of Britain, which was fought in the skies above the county, heralded a major turning point in World War Two.

Without aerial dominance, Hitler's Nazis were prevented from mounting a planned invasion of Britain, stemming the tide of the German advance across Europe in 1940.

From his home at Chartwell, near Westerham, Prime Minister Winston Churchill dubbed the battle Britain's "finest hour".

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the triumph, Biggin Hill Air Fair is planning an airfield attack and aerial display in June, and a major event will be staged at the National Memorial to the battle at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, in July.

The county's Spitfire, The Spirit of Kent, will also soar above the War and Peace Show at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood in July.

The Battle of Britain raged over Kent from July 10 until October 31, 1940, with brave RAF pilots

winning spectacular dog-fights, despite being completely outnumbered by the German Luftwaffe.

In a rousing address from Chartwell, Churchill declared in August, 1940, that: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The four months of intense aerial dogfights were fought above Kent to win dominance of the skies and also to protect London from Nazi attacks.

There were 71 squadrons within RAF Fighter Command, and the airmen known as 'The Few' came not only from Britain but also Poland, France, Belgium, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

A major celebration of the 70th anniversary of the triumph is planned for July 11 this year at the National Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, on the cliffs between Folkestone and Dover.

The most famous RAF fighter station at Biggin Hill airfield, which is now an airport near Westerham, will commemorate the anniversary at its 47th annual Air Fair on June 26-27.

Events will include a spectacular airfield attack enhanced through sound, pyrotechnics and giant screens, to help create the summer of 1940.

It will host a great number of Spitfires, Hurricanes and other key aircraft from the battle and has invited representatives and aircraft from the Allied nations to join the commemorations.



LEADER: Churchill



WARBIRDS TAKE TO THE COUNTY'S SKIES AGAIN

TWO iconic Battle of Britain aircraft will return to the skies above Kent this year for the War and Peace Show.

The popular annual event will be held at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood just weeks after the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the turning point of World War Two.

The county's Spitfire fighter Spirit of Kent and the German Messerschmitt 108 (pictured) will take to the skies on Sunday, July 25.

Show organiser Rex Cadman said: "It will be good to hear the throaty roar of the Spitfire, particularly in such an important year, when we are celebrating the most significant event in the history of the RAF."

"The aircraft's appearance at the War and Peace Show is a tribute to the courageous airmen whose skill and determination played a crucial role in turning defeat into victory."

"The return of the Messerschmitt 108 provides a rare opportunity for people to see a German wartime aircraft in action."

"This machine was not a fighter, in the style of its sister aeroplane the Messerschmitt 109, but these machines were very much in the frontline, serving on fighter squadrons in the communications role."

Paul Campbell, of the Kent Spitfire, which has arranged the War and Peace Show display, said: "Both aircraft will be in authentic wartime livery and looking their best for such an important anniversary year."

Language schools speechless over government visa rules

A CLAMPDOWN on foreign students entering the UK has sparked fears of a huge drop in numbers at Kent's language schools, colleges and universities.

Under new Home Office rules designed to reduce abuse of the system, visa applicants must now be able to speak a higher level of English before being allowed to stay.

But while many are pleased the Government is cracking down on those who pretend to be students and instead find jobs, further education bodies in Kent rely heavily on foreign intakes and are concerned.

Peter Worley, principal of Hilderstone College in Broadstairs, said: "I'd have thought every language school in the country and all the universities are aghast at these proposals.

"It's akin to dealing with an outbreak of weeds by bulldozing the garden. The Government is putting the language school industry at risk because it can't organise its legislation properly."

"Alan Johnson [the Home Secretary] says students wishing to study English must first have a good grasp of English, which is absurd."

"It's like saying you can't learn to drive unless you have already driven; or can't learn the trumpet until you have a good grasp of it."

Currently, anyone who successfully applies for a student visa can travel to the UK and work legally for up to 20 hours a week.

Under the new rules, applicants from outside the EU will have to speak English at a level just below GCSE standard, rather than beginner level as at present.

Those taking courses below degree level will also only be allowed to work 10 hours a week.

It is hoped the legislation will also reduce the threat of terrorism, but North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale said: "The Home Secretary has ignored cross-party warnings that his proposals will damage the interests of language schools, colleges and universities while doing nothing to address the real problem, which is illegal immigration and economic migration under the guise of seeking asylum."

"Kent is already suffering as agents placing students are choosing locations other than the UK because of the uncertainty."

"We need to control immigration, but we need to remember foreign students are worth a great deal to our economy, in the short and long term,

as graduates return to do business in Britain."

Most language schools are located along the south coast, with east Kent a particular hotspot.

The sector is worth about £1.5 billion to the economy, and Margate Language Centre principal Jon Burton said he was "shocked, disappointed and bemused" that it was being put at risk by the new legislation.

He said: "It's not just the schools that will miss out, it's Kent as a whole. Foreign students just won't bother coming, yet they are an important part of the economy of the county."

Professor Julia Goodfellow, vice-chancellor of the University of Kent, said she didn't think the legislation would affect applicants.

She said: "The policy is not an issue for universities as we have quite strong criteria anyway."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

STEVE BARLOW



Q What are your responsibilities?

A My job title is district commander for the Canterbury district, so Canterbury city itself, Whitstable, Herne Bay and all the rural bits in between. I am directly responsible for all the operational uniformed police activity that goes on over that large area.

Q Why have crime numbers fallen in the area?

A Crime continues to fall across the country so it is not something we can claim is unique to Kent or to Canterbury. There is a general drop in most crime categories in the country. It would be attributable to a whole spectrum of reasons, but we would like to think a good percentage of the reasons are our hard work in identifying those that are normally responsible for a disproportionate amount of the crime, and then the process of them going through the criminal justice system to incapacitate them. It has been something the police service and others have been aware of for years; the vast majority of the crime is committed by a very small percentage of people. It is a small minority of people that cause the problems for the vast majority who tend to be hard-working, decent citizens.

Q Why has numbers of drug crimes risen?

A The thing with drugs is that it is not just a Canterbury or a Kent or a British problem; it

is a world-wide problem. It is a huge social problem. It does affect disproportionately a small number again who are the users who cause us problems in respect of other crime, particularly acquisitive crime because they need to steal and acquire property so they can fund their drug habit. However, when you refer to the drug crime figures increasing, that will be a direct reflection of the fact that police have done more work around drugs. A drug incident only becomes a crime when the police have found someone either in possession, intending to sell or actually selling drugs. That is when it becomes recorded as a crime. The more work we do to tackle drug dealers the higher our drug figures become, unlike other serious crimes like murders which are always recorded. The drug figures reflect our pro-active intervention. This last year we have had a number of successful operations. We now have about 90 defendants going through the courts and that had quite an effect on the local drug users.

Q Is there anything that concerns you about policing or crime in the area?

A I don't have major concerns about Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay. The Canterbury district is still an incredibly safe place to live, work and visit. But there are, as one might expect, still a small minority of people that will revert to crime for whatever reason. There are also a small minority of people who behave in an anti-social manner which does

cause concern and distress of other members of the public. Our efforts are focussed on that minority of criminals.

Q What is the most difficult thing about your job?

A That is a difficult question because I still thoroughly enjoy my job and there can't be too many people that still wake up in the morning and are still content, or indeed look forward, to going into work. A number of my colleagues feel the same. It seems to be something quite strange about this as a profession. There are some things that are more difficult than others. In my role now it is probably dealing with some of the bureaucracies to satisfy all those who are interested in our accountability. We are accountable to the public so we have to have systems of accountability but it's probably one of the less rewarding parts of the job.

Q What is most satisfying aspect of your job?

A It sounds a little bit corny, but helping the public. It is satisfying when a member of the public says thank-you. We deal with such a huge spectrum of the human experience that most members of the public probably don't have a full appreciation or understanding. Most people's experiences are based about watching television and the reality isn't quite like that. We are just a lot of folks trying to do an awful lot, as well as we can, for the people of the district.

Q & A

Reporter **Jenny Armstrong** talks to Chief Inspector Steve Barlow, the head of uniformed police in the district, about crime, drugs and drug statistics and what makes him want to keep going into work everyday



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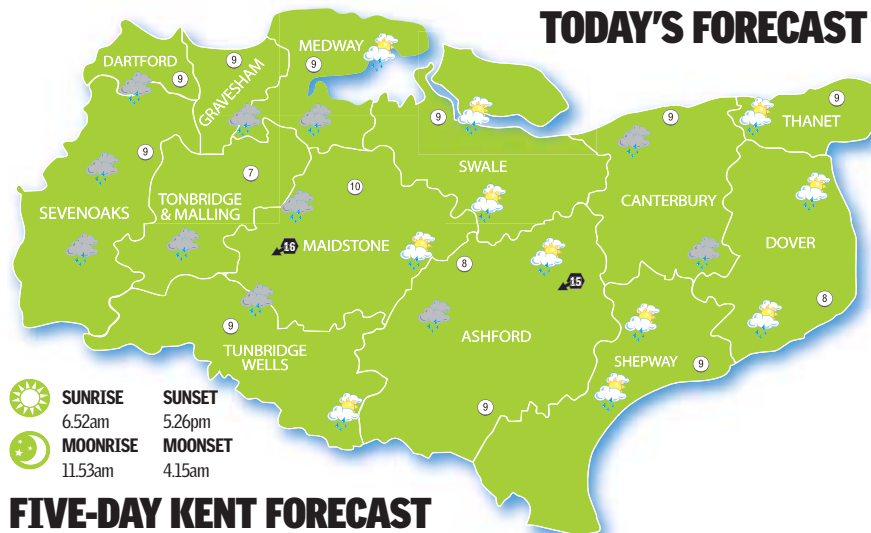
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Location	Day	Time	Height
Chatham	Saturday	11:38am	6.0m
	Sunday	12:28pm	6.3m
Dover	Saturday	9:52am	6.4m
	Sunday	10:39am	6.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:50am	7.2m
	Sunday	10:39am	7.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:22am	4.9m
	Sunday	11:09am	5.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:27am	5.7m
	Sunday	12:18pm	6.0m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:32am	5.2m
	Sunday	12:25pm	5.4m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	4°C	10°C	8°C	9°C	9°C	Gravesend	4°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	8°C
Canterbury	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	6°C	Maidstone	5°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	8°C
Chatham	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C	Ramsgate	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	6°C
Dartford	4°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	Rochester	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C
Dover	4°C	8°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	3°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	6°C
Faversham	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C
Folkestone	4°C	8°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Tonbridge	4°C	9°C	8°C	8°C	9°C
Gillingham	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C	Tun Wells	4°C	9°C	8°C	8°C	9°C

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	4°C	Madrid	11°C
Athens	15°C	New York	6°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	12°C
Beijing	3°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	36°C
Cape Town	30°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	3°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	18°C	Warsaw	2°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	20°C

Road casualties 'cut by cameras'

DEATHS and serious injuries are down by 93 per cent thanks to speed cameras, according to the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership.

In the three years before speed cameras were installed, 29 people were killed or seriously injured at crash hotspots in the district.

But since the installation of cameras in 2006 only two people have been killed or seriously injured in three years.

Canterbury has two fixed yellow safety cameras and five camera van sites.

Katherine Barrett, the partnership's communications officer, said: "When you see a yellow fixed camera in means there have been three or more people killed or seriously injured over a 1km stretch in the three years before the camera was installed."

"Our safety camera vans operate at sites where at least one person has been killed or seriously injured in a speed-related crash."

"All cameras are placed where they will save lives and these latest figures for Canterbury show beyond any doubt they are making our roads a safer place."

Across Kent there has been a 63 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured at the partnership's camera and van sites since they were introduced.

Katherine Barrett said: "Nearly 325 casualties have been prevented across the region."

The partnership is comprised of Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Police, the Highways Agency and the courts service.



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Eastern and Coastal Kent

Badly behaved boars lined up in farmers' sights

■ BY MARIJKE COX

WILD boar wreaking havoc in the Kent countryside have forced desperate farmers to demand a wide-spread cull.

The herds are being blamed for killing lambs, destroying crops and, in the worst cases, attacking dogs, as they expand across the county.

Some farmers have admitted to losing thousands of pounds each year as the pigs destroy their crops, with others having to fork out for new fences to replace ones ripped apart by the animals.

And despite wild boar preferring the more wooded areas of the Kent and Sussex borders, an increasing number are now being spotted in eastern parts of the county.

Isabelle Bretherton, from the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said this is unsurprising as they are known to travel large distances.

"Once they have finished eating woodland plants in one area they will quickly move on to another," she said.

Risk of disease, damage to crops and attacks on livestock has pushed the NFU to back calls for management through culling.

"At the moment there is no management and this needs to be looked at," said Ms

Bretherton. "Like any wildlife, when the population reaches large levels, culling is sadly required. They shouldn't be wiped out altogether, but numbers need to be controlled."

Experts believe there could be more than 500 roaming between Kent and East Sussex.

And without predators such as wolves, the animals are top of the food chain, meaning numbers are not controlled naturally.

Hunting is permitted throughout the year and around 100 landowners have licences to cull them on their land.

Meat stocks from the animals provide butchers with quality, sought-after produce, but those in the agricultural industry still believe numbers need to be managed.

Diversity

Critics, however, say wild boar add to the rich diversity of the countryside.

Peter Smith, from the Wildwood Trust at Herne, near Canterbury, agreed there needs to be some control, but stressed they should not be eradicated.

But farmer Jenny Farrant, who runs a farm in Beckley, on the border of Kent and Sussex, said some of her land has been destroyed, losing her about £50,000 over the years.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has drawn up a three-year action plan to help rural communities in Kent deal with the problem.



EXPANDING FAMILY: Rapidly breeding wild boar have brought calls for a cull from farmers in Kent and East Sussex

Glass half full for pubs minister

LEADING names in Kent's pub trade have raised doubts over what the industry's new government minister can achieve just months before the general election.

While welcoming the appointment of John Healey as Britain's first pubs minister, both Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame and Thorley Taverns operations director Phil Thorley remain sceptical about a position that may cease to exist if the Conservatives win power.

Mr Thorley said: "It's like winning a penalty after the final whistle has already been blown – too little, too late."

"It's good to see they've finally recognised the industry needs focus, but for me it's just a token gesture in an attempt to win votes."

"There's something like 20 per cent fewer pubs today than when the Government came in 13 years ago, but they decide to appoint a minister just months before the election. We've had to deal with so many new laws and issues affecting the pub trade. It would take anyone time to understand them all, by the time John Healey does it will be too late for him to do anything about them."

The Thorley Taverns chain consists of 21 pubs in east Kent as well as clubs, restaurants and function rooms.

An estimated 40 UK pubs have closed every week over the past year, with challenges facing the industry including the recession, high rents, the smoking ban, changing consumer habits and cheap alcohol

in supermarkets. It is understood Mr Healey will consider introducing business tax breaks and relaxed planning laws to help pubs survive, something Mr Neame – chief executive of Britain's oldest brewer – is keen to see come to fruition. He said: "To have a single point of contact for the industry is extremely

beneficial, because previously we would have to deal with different departments for different issues and it was all very dysfunctional."

"But the obvious question is: what's he here for and what does he propose to do?"

"Essentially the Government's policy on alcohol over the last 15 years has favoured vodka and cider over beer, and nightclubs and supermarkets over traditional pubs, and we would like to see that reversed."

Mr Neame said he had already written to Mr Healey with suggestions of how he could help the pub trade, including freezing beer duty and offering rates relief

for pubs that provide other community services like internet access, public toilets and post offices.

A self-confessed beer lover, Mr Healey is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Beer group and a regular at pubs in his Wentworth constituency in South Yorkshire.

He said: "While we can't stop every pub from closing, it's right we do everything possible to back them."

"But they need help now, so I am determined to have a deal on the table with a package of help in the next few weeks."



CHEERS: John Healey is the first pubs minister

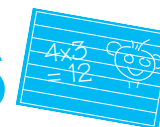


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BREAK TIME

Scheme gives cash boost for uni interns

A GRADUATE internship scheme could help small businesses and those looking for jobs in the area.

The University of Kent has won a significant share of the £13 million made available but the Government's new placement scheme, which will give small businesses financial and administrative support to take on a graduate intern.

Carole Barron, director of the organisation supervising the internships at the university, said: "This will provide a meaningful experience for both the graduate and the employer."

Graduates or small businesses who want information should contact Kent Innovation Enterprise on 01227 827378 or email enterprise@kent.ac.uk.

Young semi-finalists mean big business

ENTERPRISING students have seen off more than 250 other teams for a place in the University Business Challenge semi-finals.

A third-year team from Christ Church University spent five weeks playing an online business simulation to overcome national competition.

The idea of the challenge is to allow undergraduates to learn about business in the real world, learn more skills and meet employers.

Wim van Vuuren, senior business and management lecturer, said: "This is a wonderful result and we wish the team the very best of luck for the semi-finals."



BIG CHALLENGE: Representatives of the four student unions involved come together as Canterbury United to bring the big questions of the day to the local community

Students show united front in week of positive action

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

STUDENTS are spending this week challenging the way people in the city see them and trying to build closer ties with locals.

Youngsters from Christ Church University, Canterbury College, Kent University and the University for the Creative Arts have come together under the banner of 'Canterbury United' to put on a range of positive events.

Yesterday the student coalition hosted a debate with parliamentary candidates on the future of tuition fees.

Tomorrow, dance societies will be performing street dance, belly dance and salsa in the city centre between 11am and 4pm and collecting money for local special-needs schools.

The week of events will end on Saturday with a community march through the city, beginning at the Westgate Hall at 12pm and ending with a student music performance in the Dane John gardens at 1pm.

At 2pm on the day there will be a ticketed public debate and question time on Canterbury and student debt at Augustine House, in Rhodaus Town, Canterbury, with the main parliamentary candidates for Canterbury and Whitstable and the vice president of the National Union of Students.

Tickets are available from Augustine House or by contacting the student unions.

The youngsters are also taking the

opportunity to encourage everyone over the age of 16 to register to vote, and will be campaigning about the possible changes to university tuition fees which may come about after the general election.

Daniel Curran, vice-president for education of the University of Kent's student union said: "I believe students do care about the areas they live in whilst they study at university and often they will face a big decision in leaving the area when their time here is up."

"It is vital they have the chance, along with the local community, to impact on the local area and stand together on important issues which affect the whole community, like tuition fees."

"We want to show one community, to show Canterbury united."

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yourcanterburyblogger

Dave Mairs suggests that grandiose visions should make way to more pragmatic concerns



You won't hear the word 'sorry' at the bottom of a Kent pothole

SOMETHING extraordinary happened last week: the county council apologised for the state of the roads and the number of potholes that made driving all but impossible in some parts.

Crumbs, a touch of humility from County Hall – something, it's fair to say, that we're not overly used to in this part of the world.

Had KCC leader Paul Carter not been feeling well? One of those nasty winter chills, perhaps? Or maybe the county's highways chief Nick Chard was a little dazed and confused after pranging his car an icy road?

Although the latter might seem the best bet given the number of us who have suffered a similar fate of late, neither of the above misfortunes were, to my knowledge, true.

And, you shouldn't be surprised to learn, the apology didn't come from our leaders at Maidstone, but from Staffordshire County Council.

Not a part of the country I know well, but how refreshing to find a local authority ready to hold up its collective hands and say sorry, we know this wasn't good enough and we'll get it sorted.

It all contrasts rather depressingly with the

bluster emanating from our county hall, where an increasingly arrogant, pompous and self-important leadership appears to consider itself beyond the slightest reproach.

Consider the Icelandic banking fiasco that claimed £50 million of KCC's cash. That's our cash, by the way. Your cash.

Were we offered an apology for KCC having been so careless with our money?

OK, let's return quickly to the real world and recall what we did in fact get – a barrage of bleating and whining that the nasty old Audit Commission had decreed KCC's performance in the Icelandic affair to have been 'negligent'.

Legal action was threatened – using our cash, your cash – if the commission didn't remove the word 'negligent' from its report.

Presumably not fancying a potentially lengthy court squabble, the commission 'downgraded' the negligence charge to 'careless'.

I'm not convinced a 'careless' local authority should be handling our millions, but we must live with what we've got... a group seemingly more concerned with promoting its own sanctity than doing what is necessary to keep the county running.

And that, it is all too often forgotten, involves

the mundane: disposing of our rubbish, keeping our libraries stocked with an up-to-date selection of books, keeping our roads in a drivable state...

Which many of them are not at the moment. I've (thus far) got away lightly this winter – I just need my car's tracking fixed after thumping into one pothole too many – but countless people will have been forking out for smashed wheels, shredded tyres, wrecked suspensions and so on as the shocking state of the county's roads has taken its toll.

So when Cllr Carter is next unveiling his vision (spare us!) to an adoring audience about how he would like to cover yet more countryside with another road across the Thames, or how he would like a series of lorry parks across Kent, or how he would so like to emulate the wondrous achievements of the Victorians, perhaps someone close to him might venture to suggest that keeping open the roads we've got should be the priority.

Oh, and learning how to say sorry once in a while when he or his authority gets it wrong.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Blogs do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to air as wide a range of opinions as possible. A full name and address must be provided by all bloggers.

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourcanterbury, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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WIN! Tickets to the X Factor Live Tour

YES, The X Factor may be over for another year, but the juggernaut rumbles on with the most anticipated concert of 2010.

One of the must-see highlights of the X Factor year is the annual X Factor Live Tour. This year's extravaganza is set to be bigger than ever. Don't miss the chance to win your X Factor tickets and see all the highly talented contestants perform live on the night.

Watch all your favourites from this series including, Jedward, Olly, Lucie, Jamie Afro, Danyl, Stacey – all performing live. The X Factor Live Tour 2010 gives you the opportunity to see this year's winner Joe and all the other finalists on tour. The X Factor Live Tour will also be packed full of special guests and will include performances from some of the show's most memorable characters.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets to the Saturday, March 20 show at London's O2 Arena, answer this question:

Who was 2009's X Factor winner:

A) Rachel Adedeji

B) Kandy Rain

C) Joe McElderry

To enter, simply text your answer either 'win A' 'win B' or 'win C' to 80012. Entrants must put 'Win' before either the winning answer A,B or C. The text line closes on March 12, 2010, and the winner will be notified by March 12, 2010.

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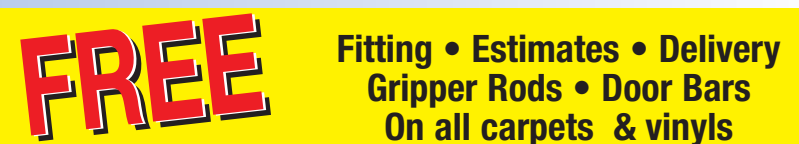
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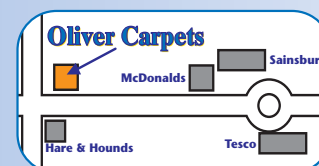
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TALK TIME

GEOFF DIXON

The group manager at Kent Music talks about his job and why he believes music is an excellent way to instil confidence and inspire creativity



Tell us a bit about your job.

I oversee the provision of Kent's many county groups which are run by Kent Music for Kent County Council and Medway Council. There are approximately 700 musicians aged between seven and 25 in 16 county level groups, eight choirs, two orchestras, two wind bands, a jazz orchestra, two recorder ensembles and the Kent Music Academy. Further to this we run our annual three-week summer school which attracts an additional 1,000 young musicians from around the county.

Why do you think music is a good hobby and talent to have?

Learning to play a musical instrument develops many useful skills in young people such as the ability to work on their own while practising and also to work as part of a team when rehearsing in groups. When taught and encouraged properly individual and group music lessons instil confidence, discipline and commitment. On top of this, of course, it's a very enjoyable hobby through which you can make life-long friendships.

What have you got coming up in 2010?

In April we are presenting a short festival of Kent Music county groups concerts in Chatham. This starts on April at the Brook Theatre. On April 10 we have the Kent county youth orchestra playing the Dvorak's new world symphony in the Central Theatre, and lastly we have the Kent youth choirs and Kent youth wind orchestra playing music from Broadway on April 11, also at the Central Theatre. Full details are on www.kent-music.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Bring in assisted suicide UK law

Whilst not directly a Kent-based story, there may well be people in Kent in similar circumstances – albeit for different reasons.

BBC veteran presenter Ray Gosling has admitted, on a radio show earlier this week, that he killed his then lover who was then apparently in the final painful stages of AIDS.

This is likely to have happened before more modern treatments became available, though we don't yet know when.

(Remember Kent based artist and film-maker Derek Jarman died of this illness way back in 1991. His diaries still make for very uncomfortable reading during his final months etc.)

For Ray Gosling it must have been a very emotional and upsetting thing to do, especially once the doctors advised there was nothing more they could do. He acted out of love and compassion for his then lover in my view.

Whilst he has now been detained for questioning by Notts Police, in my view he should not be vilified for this action, nor charged with either murder or manslaughter. I have every sympathy for him under very trying circumstances as with anyone in a similar situation.

I back the calls made recently by Sir Terry Pratchett for an assisted suicide law in the UK as already happens in some parts of the USA and in Switzerland etc.

Ray Duff



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourcanterbury.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourcanterbury.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Canterbury as well as our villages.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourcanterbury before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourcanterbury.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Council tenants' difficult lives

I don't believe that the anonymous correspondent who

wrote in stating that council tenants all live in decent houses and if they dislike their abode then they should move out, has any comprehension whatsoever of the difficult circumstances a lot of tenants are forced to endure.

Many council homes are essentially sheltered accommodation for vulnerable people, either with mental illness or fighting addictions, who have no savings and exist on the bare minimum to survive each week.

Faulty heating appliances and rising damp are notoriously common problems in council flats and houses. To get the council to successfully undertake repair work often takes an eternity.

Sub-standard housing is compounded by substandard council workmanship.

Tenants in squalid conditions unfit for human habitation can either grin and bear it or move out and live on the streets. Not much choice really is it?

The council needs to make regular inspections to ensure that all of their properties meet the required standards of acceptability, and if they do not, to arrange for repairs to be conducted with speedy efficiency.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler

Stop public funding in private pockets

Does group-think predominate among academics, finance, economists, politicians and media where logic bows before wishful thinking?

Aggressive monetarist-theory-promoters urge spending our way out of recession, without genuine attempts to provide jobs. What of innocent job-seekers on a pittance of £60.50 per week? How can we overcome the artificial-construct free market and government-inflicted avalanche of bad debts, state-sector pension deficits and one million government non-job

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liabilities? How many millions of us are condemned to poverty despite being thrifty while spendthrifts thrive, eg MEPs get £2 from us for each £1 they pay into their EC pensions, when we are already overloaded by taxes.

Tory/Labour cosy duopoly rewards them, their lobbyist cronies and supporters with an immoral transfer of public funding into private pockets. Or why does PR-occupied Cameron remind me of Mr Bean to Stalin? Osborne, Fox, Hammond, Lansley, etc are they Rasputin clones, fixated on political advantage and empire-building not on the real issues that afflict a divided and dissatisfied nation.

Rita Grootendorst

Don't cut back on university education

The Government proposes to make cuts of £449 million in the University sector.

The Kent Green Party is urging people to campaign against these cuts, for the sake of our young people and everyone who wants access to university education.

The university sector is expecting to turn away up to 300,000 would-be students in the autumn, including

applicants from all over Kent and Medway. Government cuts in funding are to blame. Kent-based universities and colleges are all very likely to be turning students away.

The Government found £37 billion in a single day as part of its strategy to prop up the banking system. At a time of rising unemployment, and bearing in mind persistent skills shortages in the UK, it cannot be acceptable to put people on the dole rather than into Higher Education.

UCAS says applications from home students are already 22 per cent above last year, and overseas applications are up 28.7 per cent.

The University and College Union has already quite rightly condemned the proposed cuts, which threaten the future careers of these applicants. Cuts can be made elsewhere.

Government should not cut the futures of those prepared to take on the challenges, and costs, of university education.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

Are you are carer not being cared for?

More than five million people across the UK currently care for a loved one, yet shockingly, more than two thirds of those do not see

themselves as carers, and do not register on the radars of health or care organisations.

Many people take on the role of carer without acknowledging it; often starting with offering to help an elderly relative with shopping, or checking if they've taken their medication, but before they know it, they're caring for several hours or more a week.

As a carer, it can be difficult to admit you need support – physically, emotionally or financially. Many carers often neglect their own health and wellbeing as – to them – the person they care for is their main priority.

Without help and support, before long you can find yourself struggling with what can be very physical and mental demands, trying to balance work and home life, and potentially risking your own health and wellbeing as a result.

I'm supporting the NHS Carers Direct 'Who Cares?' campaign, to help ensure that the millions of carers across the UK are taking advantage of the support available to them. The Carers Direct helpline can be that all-important first port of call.

You can contact Carers Direct for support, information and advice by calling the helpline on 0808 802 02 02 or visit www.nhs.uk/carersdirect.

Dr Hilary Jones

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■ The George and Dragon

THE George and Dragon is a free house and the building dates from 1557 while it has been licensed as an ale house since 1562.

It featured in a cult film entitled A Canterbury Tale, by filmmaker Michael Powell when it was known as The Hand of Glory. Another curiosity is that the pub was once the toll house for Fordwich Bridge.

A great selection of real ales, games and books are available and there is free Wi-Fi.

Tasty home-cooked food is served and there are more than 50 whiskies to choose from.

A two-course lunch menu is available for £9.95 from Monday to Friday, while Monday is steak night, Tuesday has gourmet burgers, Wednesday offers a winter warmer and on Fridays, fish is on the menu.

Regular events include psychic evenings and quizzes, with details published on the Facebook group The George and Dragon, Fordwich.

Menu favourites include Cajun mushrooms, barbecue ribs, prawn cocktail, lamb shank, fish and chips and sticky toffee pudding or chocolate brownie sundae for dessert.

The pub actively supports local charities including Pilgrims Hospice, Kent Smiles, Sunny Days, Cancer Research and Breast Cancer Campaign.

Refurbished last year, the pub's history is detailed in a collection of artefacts and photos.

It is open from 11am until 11pm Mondays to Thursdays (last food orders 9.30pm), 11am until midnight Fridays and Saturdays (last food orders 10pm) and 11am until 10.30pm on Sundays (last food orders 9pm).

On Thursday, February 25, there will be a charity quiz in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice. George and Dragon, King St, Fordwich CT2 0DB 01227 710661

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Friendly welcome at busy village pub



■ The Anchor Inn

THE Anchor Inn which dates from 1623 is in the picturesque village of Littlebourne, and serves traditional home-cooked English food which is a great hit with visitors.

All produce is locally-sourced and perfectly complemented by the pub's range of real ales.

Signed boxing memorabilia is a feature of the pub walls – landlord Les Munden is a former coach in the sport – and a traditional medieval-styled function room is available for hire.

Monday night is poker night and open to all, while mussels and fries are new on the menu for Fridays, served with a choice of white wine

cream and garlic, red wine, tomatoes and herbs, or pernod and fennel.

Beef short rib with horseradish mash, sardines piri-iri and apricot nut roast topped with goats cheese and seasonal vegetables are all popular choices from the menu.

On Friday, March 12, live music will be performed by Tom and the Pharaohs.

Landlord Les said: "The Anchor is a proper English pub where you enter as strangers and leave as friends. It has a homely atmosphere where you can't help but relax."

Roaring log fires add to the cosy feel and as the home of a darts and pool team it is always at the centre of community life.

The pub is open from 11am until midnight seven days a week.

The Anchor Inn, 2 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, near Canterbury CT3 1UY. Telephone 01227 721207

CHEF RECOMMENDS

Martins

Starter: Sweet chilli prawns – Mediterranean prawns drizzled with garlic butter on a bed of spring onions with a warm sweet chilli dip

Main course: Rosemary lamb – tender loins of lamb with rosemary and onion gravy

Dessert: Kentish gypsy tart

Telephone: 01227 750304

Grove Ferry

Starter: Pan-seared black pudding,

apple crisps and poached egg

Main course: Hare, pheasant and venison crumble, served with smoked mash and sautéed spinach

Dessert: Triple chocolate brownie

Telephone: 01227 830830

Mama Feelgoods

Starter: Leek and potato soup

Main course: Brie, cranberry and walnut tart with dressed leaves

Dessert: Warm chocolate brownie

served with vanilla ice cream

Telephone: 01227 830830

Rose and Crown

Starter: Moules mariniere

Main course: Homemade pie of the day

with potatoes vegetables and gravy.

Dessert: Homemade fruit crumble with

hot custard.

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Prince of Wales

Starter: Asparagus wrapped in smoked

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Main course: Spiced haddock served

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It's time to audition if you think you can Roc Da Mic



TALENTED singers, rappers, poets and dancers are being urged to enter an X-Factor-style competition.

The Roc Da Mic contest will see the best young hopefuls from across the UK go head-to-head for the title – which comes with a recording contract and a £10,000 cash prize.

Open auditions will be held in London, Sheffield, Belfast, Cardiff and 12 other locations across the country.

But before all that, the Roc Da Mic judges will head to Maidstone on Sunday, March 28.

Competition founder Melissa Bell – mother of X-Factor winner Alexandra Burke and former lead singer of 80s giants Soul II Soul – said she was hoping for a big turn-out.

“The Maidstone audition will be for the whole of Kent and we’re hoping to bring in the crowds and get people performing,” she said. “The panel will be made up of industry experts and notable producers. We won’t be harsh like they are on the X-Factor, although we’ll be honest about people’s abilities.”

In contrast to the multi-million pound ITV show, money made from the competition will go to three charities; the British Kidney Patient Association, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Haiti earthquake appeal.

Ms Bell, who was struck down with kidney failure three years ago, said: “The Kidney Patient Association is a very important charity and helps people in my condition.”

“I have to have dialysis every other day and it is debilitating – I can’t actually do anything some days.”

“I can’t find a job because of this and have to rely on benefits, but the charity helps people

■ BY MARIJKE COX



WINNING TEAM: Roc Da Mic founder Melissa Bell with her daughter, X-Factor winner Alexandra Burke, left

who struggle like me, with things like advice and travel – they also help fund holidays for patients.”

Hopefuls will have to pay £20 to enter, or £25 for a band, which pays for a tutorial lesson worth £45 and an artist’s support pack.

“This is like a mini-bible of tips and links to help people launch a career in the industry,” said Ms Bell. “Money made from this will go to the charities and pay for overheads.”

The finals of the competition will be held in London later in the year.

“Alex has said she will support us once we’re on the road,” said Ms Bell.

“She has also said she’ll sing at the final and hopefully JLS will be able to perform too.”

To register go to www.rocdamic.co.uk, email registration@rocdamic.co.uk for an application form or call the helpline on 0207 607 4986.

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Kent-based funk quartet Tokyo Jo play their song Mamajam



Singer-songwriter Lucy Kitt performs for The Ether.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

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- 2 Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn (from Deal)
- 3 Gristlefridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 4 The Flack - Forget Me (from Deal)
- 5 Shelta - We Can Make It (from Bexley)

20

things to do at VILLAGE Maidstone in 2010

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PESSY CAT DOLLS Friday 12th March 8.00pm - 11.00pm Tickets: £25.00 01622 672200	Fathers Day Saturday 13th March 11.00am - 4.00pm Tickets: £10.00 01622 672200	UB40 Friday 12th March 8.00pm - 11.00pm Tickets: £25.00 01622 672200	The Village Friday 12th March 8.00pm - 11.00pm Tickets: £25.00 01622 672200	Club Vibe Friday 12th March 8.00pm - 11.00pm Tickets: £25.00 01622 672200

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Saturday 27th February

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Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th February

Captain Mildred

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 6th March

Where's my Thing

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 6th March

Vinyl Decent

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 12th March

Bad Pennies

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 13th March

Jed

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 13th March

Nearly Famous

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 19th March

Where's my Thing

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 20th March

Salvador Charlie

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 20th March

Werther's Original

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 26th March

Hazy Shade

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Saturday 27th March

Left of the dial

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th March

Lead Gremlin

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

yourleisure



Book your spot on that broom

Witch's hunt for her missing possessions could end in disaster as her friends hitch a lift in this family show

ROOM ON THE BROOM

Various dates and venues

YOUNG audiences will be swept away when a magical adventure visits theatres in the county.

Room On The Broom is a colourful and captivating musical production from the people behind The Gruffalo, which has delighted theatregoers of all ages. Now the Tall Stories Theatre Company presents another adaptation of a children's story.

Julia Donaldson's best-selling book, with illustrations by Axel Scheffler, has been transformed into a hit show that was a sell-out success at last year's Edinburgh Festival.

Suitable for children aged three and above, Room On The Broom is a

wonderful show for family audiences.

On an ordinary night, a witch and her cat are flying along on their broomstick without a care in the world. But suddenly a mighty wind hits the pair and blows the witch's hat, bow and wand into the night.

Determined to find her lost possessions, they come across some new friends who all hop on to the broomstick for a ride.

With the help of a daft dog, a beautiful bird and a friendly frog, it looks like they will find the witch's missing things. But the broomstick is not built for five – who will save the witch when disaster strikes?

A talented cast brings this magical tale to life, including Karina Garnett, who plays Cat. Having worked with many respected companies such as Glyndebourne Opera, Trestle and the Royal Shakespeare Company, Garnett is a highly experienced

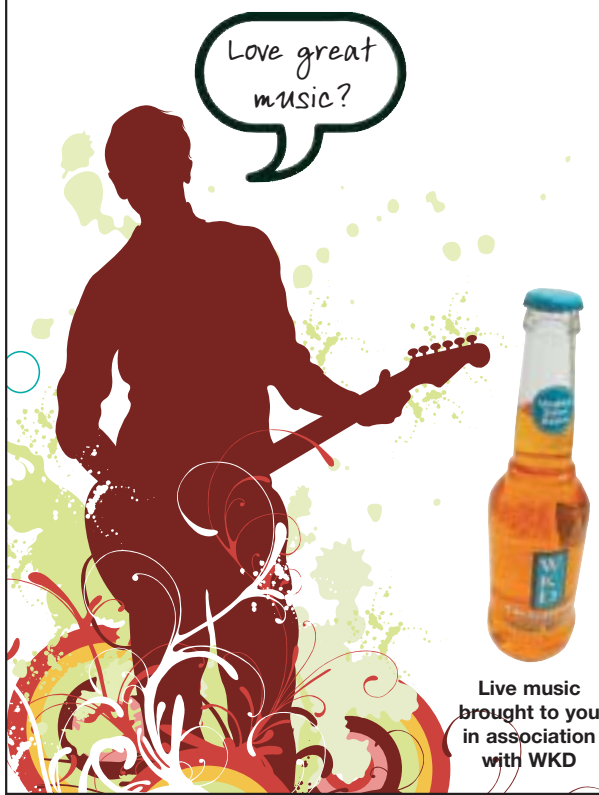
performer who should give this magical puss the perfect purr.

Sarah Louise Young, who plays Witch, has many theatre credits and is also an accomplished cabaret performer.

She is a member of Showstopper! The Improvised Musical and her third solo show drew much critical acclaim, while her TV credits include Strictly Confidential, Casualty, No Angels, Doctors, Holby City and The Jury.

Bird is played by Alex Scott Fairley, whose theatre credits range from The Taming Of The Shrew to Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!, while Phil Yarrow, who plays Dog, has also appeared in a vast array of shows.

Room On The Broom can be seen at the Central Theatre, Chatham, this Friday and Saturday and at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from Thursday to Saturday, March 4-6.



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FIONN REGAN AND FRIENDS

Sunday, February 28
The Farmhouse, Canterbury



FIND out why Fionn Regan was nominated for the Mercury Prize when he heads an evening of great live music.

The folk hero heads an evening of performances by fantastic acts, an event that is sure to ease the passing of the weekend. He will be supported by Danny and The Champions, as well as local folk favourites Lucy Kitt and Cocos Lovers (pictured).

Based in Deal, Cocos Lovers is a real family band whose line-up features a variety of brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and friends. Formed just two years ago, they have already made their mark on the folk scene and travelled all over Europe with their children in tow.

Their refreshing sound has



caught the attention of the same PR company that launched the careers of Newton Faulkner and Sandi Thom, while critics have been generous in their praise. With radio airplay on BBC Radio Kent and Tom

Robinson's BBC6 Music show, their star is truly in the ascendant.

Doors open at 6pm and admission costs £5. To find out more visit the website at www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.

EMILY PORTMAN

Wednesday, February 24
Orange Street Music Club, Canterbury



ENTER the rich and captivating world of folk singer Emily Portman when she visits Canterbury with her Trio.

Also a writer and concertina player, Portman has a wonderful voice which has attracted the attention of folk artist Shirley Collins. She earned a BBC Folk Award nomination with harmony trio The Devil's Interval and tours annually with Waterson: Carthy, as well as performing with her band Rubus.

As a soloist, she featured in the BBC's adaptation of Tess of the D'Urbervilles and has also appeared on alternative folk artist Alasdair Roberts' forthcoming album. Collins described her as 'special...beautiful and



charming' and her original compositions demonstrate her extraordinary talent as a writer.

Drawing her inspiration from folk tales and ballads, Portman uses harmony-rich narratives to explore the female experience and conjure up dark landscapes that captivate listeners. Her

new songs are already being showcased by BBC Radio 3, ahead of the release of her debut album The Glamour.

The show starts at 8pm with support from Jo Lepine and Naomy, and admission costs £5 in advance or £6 on the door. For details visit www.myspace.com/twilightfolkclub.

THE 14TH TALE

Thursday, February 25
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



A YOUNG man explores his memories of life growing up in three different countries in The 14th Tale.

Performed by celebrated spoken word and graphic artist Inua Ellams, the one-man show is currently being staged at the National Theatre and the Gulbenkian is one of just three other venues to host the show. This comic and moving self-portrait is Ellams' first full-length work for the theatre and promises to be a highly entertaining tale.

Set against the backdrop of a hospital waiting room, the show sees Ellams relive his early days in Nigeria and bring to life memories of friends, family and school years.

He then travels to Dublin before arriving in London



and experiencing life as a young, black male in the UK.

Aged just 25, Ellams is already a successful visual artist and poet who has performed at a variety of venues and festivals from the Tate Modern to Glastonbury. In The 14th Tale, he

combines comic dialogue with poetry and prose to present this compelling autobiographical show.

The performance starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12/£10/£7. Call the box office on 01227 769075 or go to www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

CANTERBURY LEISURE

Follow your dream at youth theatre group

FOLLOW in the footsteps of Hollywood star Orlando Bloom by joining the Marlowe Youth Theatre.

Wide-Eyed Theatre is looking for more boys to take part in the sessions at St Peter's Methodist Church Hall in Canterbury at 6pm on Tuesdays for ages 10 to 13, and 7.30pm for 14 to 16.

Another session for the younger age group is held at Canterbury High School at 6pm on Fridays. For details call Alison Brodie on 01227 378116.

Join the Crooner for a coffee and a dance

MEET old friends and make new ones at Coffee with the Crooner this week.

Martin Croones will be singing a selection of favourite old songs at the Northgate Ward Community Centre in Military Road, Canterbury, from 2pm on Thursday. Join him for a cup of coffee and cake, sing, dance or just socialise.

Admission costs £2 including refreshments. Call 01227 283445.

Artists get together to show off their work

THREE artists will be showcasing their latest works at the Bay Art Gallery in Herne Bay next week.

Art and Beautiful features acrylic paintings and photographs by Ronnie Treston, Chris Blackwell and George Whitcher. The exhibition runs from Monday to next Saturday and admission is free. For more information call 01227 372266 or visit www.bayartgallery.co.uk.

Get your free tickets for Kent Big Day Out

THOUSANDS of free tickets will be available for the Kent Big Day Out.

On Saturday, March 27, more than 100 castles, houses, railways, sporting venues open their doors free. Now in its fourth year, the event offers an even wider choice of attractions.

Tickets are available from visitor information centres and at www.kentbigdayout.com from Friday.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE LAST STATION (15)



This love story set during the final year of the life of Russian writer Leo Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer) focuses on the terrible strain borne by his wife, Countess Sofya (Helen Mirren).

PONOMOY (U)



This is the latest animated masterpiece from Oscar-winning anime legend Hayao Miyazaki, drawing on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale The Little Mermaid for inspiration.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Walt Disney makes a break with tradition by casting its first-ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the classic Grimm Brothers fairy tale.

Glimpse of heaven too much of a good thing

■ BY DAMON SMITH

THERE is life after death in Peter Jackson's visually-stunning interpretation of the bestseller by Alice Sebold, which proves to be one adaptation too far for the Oscar-winning director of The Lord Of The Rings trilogy and King Kong.

Cutting back and forth between the real world and a colour-saturated heavenly limbo, The Lovely Bones details the efforts of a murdered 14-year-old schoolgirl who helps her grieving father apprehend her killer from beyond the grave.

In doing so, the girl's tortured spirit can attain lasting peace, along with those of the murderer's other victims.

Jackson's screenplay, co-written with wife Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens, is caught in its own limbo, unable to bridge the narrative divide between the two planes where the story unfolds.

A miasma of computer-generated special effects in the otherworldly sections is distracting and we yearn for a speedy return to the drabness of reality.

Fantasy is vastly overrated.

The story begins with youngster Susie Salmon, played by Saoirse Ronan, on her way home from school in early December 1973.

She is lured to her death by neighbour George Harvey (Stanley Tucci), who dismembers the girl and hides her remains in a cast-iron safe in his basement.

Detective Len Fenerman and his colleagues never find Susie, just her woollen hat in a cornfield and traces of the girl's blood.

The teenager's father, Jack (Mark



CAMPAIGN: Mark Wahlberg as father Jack Salmon

Wahlberg), mother Abigail (Rachel Weisz) and booze-soaked grandmother Lynn (Susan Sarandon) are denied a chance to bury the child.

Jack sacrifices his marriage to embark on a tireless campaign to track down his daughter's killer, but there is no evidence, and the police grow tired of his theories.

Classmate Ruth Connors is touched by Susie's spirit and could perhaps provide that vital link between life and death.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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Meanwhile, George watches the Salmons closely from his home across the street, fixating on Susie's younger sister, Lindsey.

"Mr Harvey began to feel a familiar itch," confides the murdered teenager in voiceover. "It had been a long time now..."

The Lovely Bones is hamstrung by Wahlberg's inability to convey a single genuine emotion. He wrings crocodile tears in vain and tries to make us care about his patriarch's quest for vengeance.

Ironically, the dead have far more life, especially Ronan, who delivers Sebold's words in heart-tugging voiceover: "I would like to tell you that it is beautiful here, that I am, as you will one day be, forever safe... but it's not quite like that."

THE LOVELY BONES 
Certificate 12

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CANTERBURY SHOPPING

Dig out some great brass-band sounds

THE spirit of the mines lives on through a new album featuring Kent's Betteshanger Brass.

A track by the band appears on The Music Lives On Now The Mines Have Gone, released on Monday to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike.

Betteshanger Brass are one of a number of historic colliery bands to record tracks for the Universal Music album.

Visit www.themusicliveson.co.uk.

Sit on the naughty step at Bluewater signing

SUPERNANNY Jo Frost will be signing copies of her new book at Bluewater this weekend.

The internationally-renowned childcare expert gives top tips on how to raise children in Jo Frost's Confident Baby Care, which is published by Orion and priced at £14.99.

Frost will be appearing at Waterstone's from 2pm on Sunday.

For more information, phone the store on 01322 624831.

Go back to natural B4 your colour disaster

REMOVE unwanted hair colour without a trip to the salon with Colour B4 by Scott Cornwall.

Whether you want to turn your blonde locks back to brunette or undo colouring disasters, the hair colour-remover will turn back the clock without damage.

With a single application, the product can rectify dyeing blunders. Priced from £9.99, Colour B4 is available in regular and extra strengths. You can buy it from www.boots.com.

Get top brands cheap with Republic offer

EVEN shoppers on a tight budget can get more for their money at Republic with its special offer.

Buy two garments for £30 when choosing selected items from brands such as G Star Raw, Miso, Bench, Soul Cal, Fenchurch and Grafted. The offer will be available while stocks last and more information can be found in stores.

Republic stores can be found in Canterbury, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Bluewater. Visit www.republic.co.uk.

A night you can gamble on being just gorgeous

FIND out how you can Be Gorgeous with a special pamper and shopping evening at G Casino.

The venue at Westwood Cross in Thanet is offering ladies the chance to browse stalls, enjoy a free glass of bubbly, get free gaming tuition and enter a charity raffle.

The event runs from 7pm-10pm tonight (Wednesday) and admission is free, but visitors can enjoy a two-course meal and drink for £10 by booking in advance. Phone Sherrill on 01843 579361/579999.



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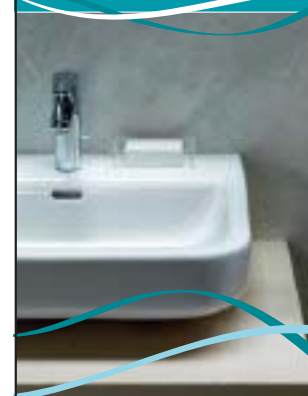
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See Med from comfort of your own stateroom

AFTER stops in France, Italy, Greece and Turkey, catching glimpses of cities such as Rome, Nice and Naples, and seeing the Pope in St Peter's Square, we often wondered what might happen next on our Mediterranean cruise.

Sailing from Barcelona to the Greek islands on the Brilliance Of The Seas, operated by Royal Caribbean International, we were in for more surprises and beautiful sights.

Two weeks at sea took us to our farthest port, Kusadasi in Turkey, gateway to Ephesus – once the second largest city of the Roman Empire. The town itself was a pleasant place, with happy people, happy shopkeepers and samples of Turkish delight, magnificent carpets, leather goods, gold and diamonds.

Naples is the gateway to the historic gems of Pompeii and Herculaneum, buried by erupting Vesuvius in AD 79. You could also tour

■ BY DAVID MASTIN

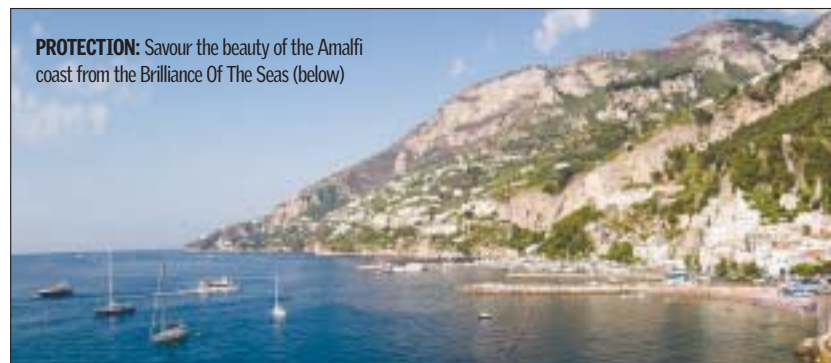
Sorrento and the Amalfi coast, or settle for lunch on the isle of Capri.

You pay extra for the trips and some are expensive (£135 for a ten-hour guided tour of Rome), but there are shorter, cheaper trips to from which to choose.

And after a hard day sightseeing, it is comforting to know that you will be soon be back to the comfort of the ship, where food – and more food – awaits.

In Barcelona, the transfer from airport to ship was slick and easy, and the Brilliance Of The Seas offered all we could expect, and more. Some passengers treated themselves to a short break in Barcelona before we sailed.

On board, meal times are as flexible as they can make them. There is fixed-time dining in two sittings in the swish Minstrel Restaurant, where you mostly share a table for ten, or you



PROTECTION: Savour the beauty of the Amalfi coast from the Brilliance Of The Seas (below)

can opt for anytime dining by arrangement.

There is also a serve-yourself eating area, the Windjammer, and various snack stations throughout the ship.

In the two speciality restaurants, the Chops Grill boasts 'the best steak on the high seas' while the Portofino serves Italian food. Both charged about £12 extra per person.

All cabins – or staterooms as cruise lines call them – have a TV and a hairdryer, and I could not fault the cabin service.

Food and entertainment – superb shows every night in the Pacific Theatre and various bar combos around the ship – are included in the price, although alcoholic drinks cost extra.

We saw something of so many places in 12 days that would have cost much more going independently, and a cocoon of cruise-ship comfort was a good way of doing it.



- David Mastin was a guest of Royal Caribbean International, which offers 12 nights on Brilliance Of The Seas this summer from £1,372, including flight from Heathrow to Barcelona and transfers. Prices are based on early-May departure.
- August price is £1,398. Package is available until November.
- RCCL reservations: 0844 493 2061 and www.royalcaribbean.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

MY BIG FAT GYPSY WEDDING Channel 4, 9pm, Thursday

CARDS on the table – I thought I knew tacky.

Having been born and raised in the fake-gold capital of the south (big shout out to the Chatham massive) I would have put money on my ability to reach the very core of tacky-ness and the tacky 'look'.

I've seen many more 'gold' clown pendants, scrunchies and big, almost parrot-perchable, hooped earrings in my time than I'd care to.

For my sins, I've also seen enough 'celebrity' features in women's magazines to gain a complete understanding of what makes someone/something eye-wateringly tacky, common and unappealing.

Yes, up until last week I would have considered myself an expert on tacky. But I was wrong.

Channel 4's My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding proved that I was a mere tacky rookie and there were deeper levels of gaudiness that I simply never knew existed.

For those of you who missed it, think Jordan's wedding's level of sheer awfulness and times that by 100.

The hour-long show took the viewer into the lives of a handful of young gypsy and traveller girls, documenting the run-up to their wedding days.

We were introduced to their families and their fiancés as well as the country's leading traveller wedding dress maker. For you see, the dress is the biggest concern for a blushing gypsy bride. And when it comes to the dress the maxim of bigger is better has never held truer.

We're talking dresses weighing up to 27 stone that leave permanent scars. To put it into context, that's like wearing two-and-a-half fully



TACK-OMETER: Channel Four's My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding proved quite an eye-opener

grown men up the aisle, while they subsequently go to town on your hips with a blunt knife. These dresses billow out to such a degree that navigating stairs/corridors/doors and otherwise becomes a team effort requiring military-type planning.

At one point, a young bride was forced to side-step down a spiral staircase like a demented half-Cinderella half-crab cross breed.

And then there were the God-awful horse-drawn carriages.

And on to the bridesmaids dresses. I understand it's accepted that the bride may wish to pick unflattering dresses for her bridesmaids to ensure all eyes are on her, but come now, surely there's some limit here?

Despite the weddings reaching unknown levels of tacky-ness, the women underneath the dresses came across incredibly well.

They were shown to be obedient to their parents, respectful and entirely devoted to the sanctity of marriage.

My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding was sold on its shock factor, but perhaps the underlying message is that the gypsy and traveller community – so often marginalised and dismissed by the majority of the population – has a lot to teach us.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

AN OLD fear will rear its head. You need to break free of this phobia. You must admit that you hate being prevented from doing what you like because of panic attacks. An authority figure is doing everything in their power to stop you getting the instruction you need.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A WELL-CONNECTED friend will grant you access to an exclusive organisation. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a fundraising idea. Don't be surprised if you're offered a job. An older colleague is jealous of your success. Beware of leaving confidential information lying around.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR energy and enthusiasm attracts lots of romantic attention. A witty sophisticate could make a pass at you. If you're single, go ahead and take the bait. If not, stay true to your beloved. Your partner is long overdue for a token of your affection.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

TAKING the helm of an important organisation will give you a chance to flex your artistic muscles. Getting paid to create something beautiful is the next best thing to heaven. This time around, you won't have any annoying adults to tell you to put down your work and go to bed.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

A PUBLIC presentation will cause your star to rise. Everybody wants you to be on their team. You'll get several exciting offers this week. Choose the one that affords the most creative freedom. It may pay less than some other jobs, but don't be fooled – you'll be much happier.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

GOING on a last-minute trip will put you in contact with some very influential people. Keep your eyes open for a stylish athlete. Your new acquaintance will tip you off to an exciting job opening. Be sure to ask for a letter of recommendation. Arguments are taking a toll on your nerves.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

PROMOTING the interests of a colleague makes you feel virtuous. Although they will probably never know the extent to which you've helped them, that doesn't matter. You just want to be channelling your energy in a positive direction. Fortunately, a best friend appreciates it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

THIS is a great time to look for a new home or put a deposit on a piece of property. You'll be able to find a spacious place for a very reasonable sum. The opportunity to teach a class will put you in the path of romance. Someone who admires your ability will ask for a date.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

WORKING behind the scenes yields the best results. You hate compromising your creative vision to a corporate power. If you're able to develop a project in secret, you won't have to alter it very much later. Still, it's important to steer clear of authority figures.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU need to spend money to make money, so if you're looking for work, invest in a stylish interview suit. You may want to pay an expert to update your CV, too. Going on an overseas trip could be in the cards. This will be a marvellous opportunity to combine business with pleasure.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOU could find romance while working as part of a team. It's hard to resist someone who makes you feel glamorous and great. If you're already in a relationship, take this opportunity to plan an outing with friends. Being surrounded by friends will create a lovely feeling of intimacy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR overbearing attitude is alienating your friends. Although you're worried that a relative is putting themselves in danger, there's nothing you can do to stop them. Instead of bearing down hard, give them space. Showing faith in their judgment will strengthen your relationship.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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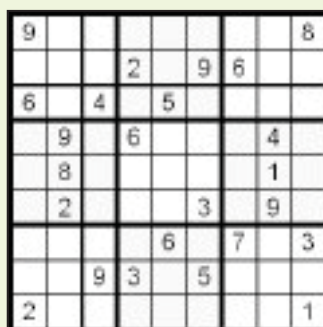
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

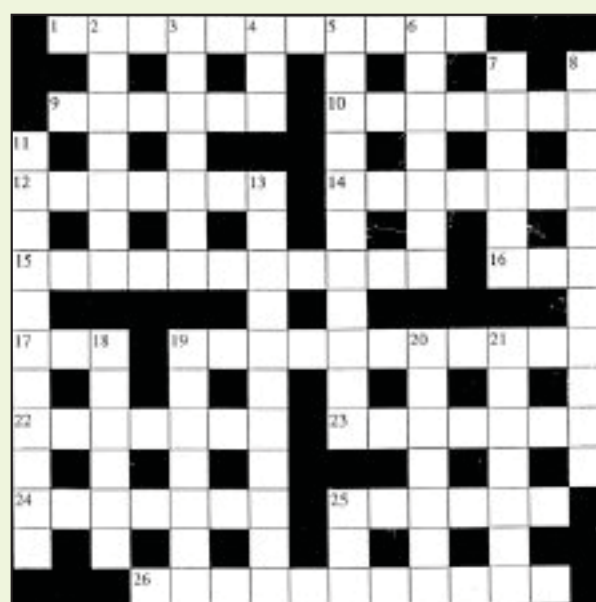
ACROSS

- 1 Clear shrill sound made at end of this tour (7-4)
 9 Like a cat's-cradle, hard to explain (6)
 10 Nobleman laid hog out (7)
 12 Some in the groups urged strong increase (7)
 14 Left cockney lady at Caithness town for even more northerly one (7)
 15 Supposed to have done some magic round city square (11)
 16 Stool has no sides as well (3)
 17 Quietly notice writing-paper (3)
 19 What bloomer could have been made by one in the Twelve? (11)
 22 Discordant groan by last character with a dress fabric (7)
 23 Russian physiologist had a meringue dish (7)
 24 Establish in Iowa perhaps (7)
 25 Illuminated during daylight hours (6)
 26 Cheat makes brief alteration (5-6)

DOWN

- 2 Pass made by youngster involving practical skill (5-2)
 3 Deliver television for nothing (3,4)
 4 Unprofessional song? (3)
 5 Learner's joint yearly grant (11)
 6 Arranged as commanded (7)
 7 Left during inapt rendering of dirge (6)
 8 Second person to be aware which item is unspecified, but well-understood (3-4-4)
 11 Opposite of a dead loss? (5,6)
 13 Naturally it sticks out at the side of one's face (8,3)
 18 Get Sid round to break down food (6)
 19 He bet with an eccentric at a lower level (7)
 20 Alan and I, about six, went round for the girl (7)
 21 Making a low sound when anchoring ship (7)
 25 Ransacking only part of bag (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Fruit from a tropical tree (7,4)
 9 Garcia (anag.) (6)
 10 Life's struggle (3,4)
 12 Untwist (7)
 14 Promiscuous (7)
 15 Chiller (4,7)
 16 Bend (3)
 17 Knight (3)
 19 Combination of events (11)
 22 Plus Mum (anag.) (4,3)
 23 Bend (7)
 24 Strong feeling (7)
 25 Small group (6)
 26 Unavoidable (11)

DOWN

- 2 Of plant life (7)
 3 Of the heart (7)
 4 GP (colloq.) (3)
 5 Part of the Arabian Sea (7,4)
 6 Bid (7)
 7 Capital of Croatia (6)
 8 Tropical disease (6,5)
 11 Mercury (11)
 13 Mounds (11)
 18 Martinet (6)
 19 Pillow (7)
 20 Break in line of verse (7)
 21 Odd (7)
 25 Tea (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No125

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No125

ACROSS: 8 Middle East 6 Aqua 9 Macaw
 10 Tube 11 Rand 13 Idle speculation 14
 Yearbook 16 Oblige 18 Remedy 19 Washed-
 up 22 Summer residence 24 Rite 25 Judo
 26 Axing 27 Ezra 28 Hard-headed. DOWN:
 1 Mummify 2 Ducal 3 Lowest bidder 4
 Entrepot 5 Subdue 7 Qualified 8 Al dente 12
 Carbohydrate 15 Alma mater 17 Password
 18 Reserve 20 Pledged 21 Trauma 23 Naïd.

QUICK SOLUTION No126

Caesura 21 Unusual 25 Chia
 Embankments 18 Ramrod 19 Cushion 20
 7 Zagreb 8 Yellow fever 11 Quicksilver 13
 3 Cardiac 4 Doc 5 Persian Gulf 6 Attempt
 Caucasi 26 Inescapable. DOWN: 2 Vegetal
 Lump sum 23 Flexure 24 Erection 25
 cabinet 16 Bow 17 Sir 19 Conjunction 22
 Rat race 12 Untwine 14 Immoral 15 Cold
 ACROSS: 1 Avocado pear 9 Agate 10

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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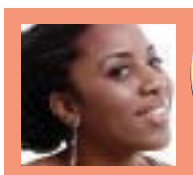
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WOMEN seeking men

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE! 25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 32-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, dogs, pop, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, ygho, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time career, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, W/LTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879391

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464635

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Prince. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine adove for friendship and more. Box 428866

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968



FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608



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FROM ME TO YOU Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145

TLC ON OFFER Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, W/LTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, W/LTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

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LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

STAY TRUE Attractive, curvy, single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 835662

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100

MEANT TO BE? Very honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5ft7, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, and enjoys long term relationship. Rochester. Box 855449

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

TAKE IT EASY Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and LTR. Seaford. Box 444366

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced, and happy, 5ft 7, looking for genuine man, laugher, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 is a must. Maidstone. Box 866380

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady (51), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862888

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JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 835662

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LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing cards, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 855760

PISCES OR CAPRICORN? Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

SHOW YOU CARE Early 60's lady, 5'2", blonde, blue eyes, likes affection, meals out, cinema, looking for a loving, non-smoker gent in the Brighton area. Box 466036

SAY YES! Brighton lass, 61, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60's music and going to the theatre. Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107

ONLY LOVE Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active 40yr old, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

AYLESFORD ROMANCE Hi my name's Mary, 62, looking for friendship with a kind, honest man. I like walking, meals out and holidays...how about we have a coffee? Box 866080

LET ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

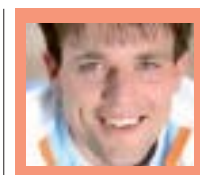
SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH... Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

FIGHTING FIT? Very young 64 year old lady, loves socialising, walks, music, dogs; seeks intelligent, unpretentious ex-forces/fireman male? For committed relationship. Les please leave contact number. Box 462717

Women seeking women
TRUE ROMANCE Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy. 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman. I like nights in/out etc. Whitstable. Box 464494

TAKE A CHANCE Honest female, 43, 5ft2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester. Box 466078

GIRL TO GIRL Looking for a female to have some fun with, I'm a 47yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, GSOH and I'm friendly. Margate area. Box 859781



MEN seeking women

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET Single dad, 34, 5ft7, brown hair/dark eyes. Hoping to meet a nice woman. I'm laid back and wear my heart on my sleeve. Chatham. Box 464598

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

DOWN BY THE BEACH Hi I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar girl to find love with. Box 449844

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN Seeking genuine lady, I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113

BURSTING WITH LOVE Shy 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647

MAKE ME LAUGH Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship, Maidstone. Box 464266

FISHING & CAMPING! Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

SHY AT FIRST Caring loving and genuine guy, hard working and shy at times. I'm 40, slim build, 5ft10, blue eyes, short hair, seeking genuine lady in Kent. Box 465529

FORECAST? 38yr old male with brown hair, big smile, big heart, and big personality seeks caring and affectionate lady for love in all weathers! Box 434270

MAKE YOUR MARK Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

TO ENJOY LIFE Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317

ETERNAL FLAME Nick, 41, 6ft, slim, dark hair/blue eyes, likes cinema, country pubs and socialising with friends, looking for a kind, caring and considerate female, 35-45. Box 450339

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750

BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY Gillingham male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate! Box 465158

SIMILAR? LOOKING FOR LOVE? Slim Kent man, 44, dark hair and eyes, loves music, swims and walks, looking for lady to take me as I am. Box 451474

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(Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri) Email: louise@gwave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

ALONG THE SHORE Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'8", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817

A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE! Single guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131

TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP Hard-working, true gent, 44, reliable, trusting, loving, genuine, enjoys sports, cars, socialising, music, films, seeks oriental or black love of his life. Box 451917

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON Athletic male, 43, 6ft, brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoy all the fine things in life, W/LTM a caring and loving female for a LTR. Box 444794

TRY ANYTHING ONCE Tall chap, 44, medium build. Interests: walking, reading, swimming. I would love to meet a nice, honest and caring lady. Box 444566

BIG DEAL IN DEAL Warm, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

WITTY ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

TAKE MY BREATH AWAY! Loving single dad, 45, loves his pubs and clubs and running, keeping fit, slim, medium height, seeks similar for mutual fun and companionship... Box 450185

ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS Single 47, 5ft8, been hurt in the past, works full time, looking for a Sussex based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 466082

GAINING CONFIDENCE 47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life. Seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463623

TAKE MY HAND Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out,



PROPERTY NEWS



Housing market frozen as snow hits county

THE recent snowfall and icy conditions have affected the mortgage market, putting a hold on many transactions, according to one industry expert.

All aspects of the sector came to a standstill, according to Catherine Hearnden, director of financial advice firm MyMortgageDirect.

"Surveyors weren't able to get properties, people weren't able to view, estate agents were closed, solicitors weren't available," she explained.

Traditionally, warmer weather sees housing activity pick up, with Easter a key time for people to start looking at houses, the mortgage expert continued.

Figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors revealed that house prices rose again in January but buyer interest and new instructions to sell fell. Newly-agreed sales fell for the first time in 10 months amid the winter conditions.

Lending shortage puts squeeze on landlords

A TOTAL of 46,000 homes were repossessed in 2009, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders – a rise of 15 per cent on the previous year and the highest number since 1995.

"Lending continues to be scarce and there seems to be no sign of banks relaxing lending," says David Plaister, managing director of property letting experts LetAssured.

"With the number of repossessions at a 14-year high, the banks' ability to lend is entrenched, and there will continue to be a shortage of funds for landlords in 2010.

"It's a shame that the number of repossessions is causing banks to hold back on lending for good landlords who can afford to borrow.

"Good landlords should be allowed to grow their portfolios. House prices are ideal so it's a great time to buy, but there's still no finance available."



There's room for optimism as the price rise continues

■ BY NICK AMES

LAST month saw house prices rise for the seventh consecutive time, according to the Halifax House Price Index.

The increase was a moderate 0.6 per cent and takes the average price to 9.9 per cent above its trough in April 2009.

The first weeks of February have also seen increased activity in the market causing optimistic forecasts from analysts about the coming months.

According to the Halifax, the Bank of England's interest rate reductions have boosted housing demand, which, coupled with low supply, pushed up prices.

It suggested that house prices would remain flat during 2010, as more people put their properties up for sale.

Currently, the average house price is £169,777, up £15,287 since April last year, while further property figures from Halifax have revealed that house prices increased by 105 per cent during the past ten years.

The Noughties saw prices go up by more in real terms than in any other decade during the last 50 years.

In the latest survey, the Rightmove House Price Index for February 2010 reveals the largest monthly increase since April 2007 and represents a year-on-year increase of 6.1 per cent.

Sellers appear to be hoping for a prosperous new year, and are asking an average of 3.2 per cent more than last month.

This average rise is surprising, given the difficult UK and global economic picture, say experts.

However property in popular locations, such as Kent, remains in short supply, supporting upwards price pressure.

Miles Shipside, commercial director of Rightmove said: "A price jump of more than



three per cent is more comparable to the pre-credit-crunch boom-times.

"Sellers are setting their sights higher, and some agents are going along with them in order to win scarce instructions.

"Property for sale remains scarce in popular areas, but new supply to the market has to be priced at what buyers are willing to pay."

Rightmove site traffic is regarded across the market as a good barometer of prospective

buyer intent, with January proving to be a record month.

Pages viewed were up 29 per cent on January 2009, at 710 million.

January and February are the traditional time for bargain hunters to start shopping around, although analysts say with prices recovering there will be fewer bargains to be had this year, and agents and sellers may have to work harder to put a deal together.

Don't let fraudsters steal your home

THE Land Registry has launched a Protect your Property Campaign to help homeowners who are most at risk of fraud.

Via the Central Office of Information's register of 6,500 organisations they will be distributing a Protect your Property leaflet giving information on how people, especially those in vulnerable groups, can protect their most valuable asset.

The leaflet can also be downloaded from the Land Registry website.

Peter Rodd, a Partner at Thanet based Solicitors, Boys & Maughan said: "The Land Registry's campaign provides homeowners

with information to help them protect their property.

"If you are mortgage-free, no longer live at your property or are a buy-to-let landlord, you should make sure the Land Registry has your details, so they can contact you when someone makes an enquiry about your property."

Last year an attempted fraud was discovered and prevented by the Land Registry because, among other anti-fraud procedures, the owners of the property that was being "stolen" had kept their address for service up to date.

The couple had paid off the mortgage on a

property they were letting and lived at another address.

Because they lived elsewhere, they'd supplied their home address as well as that of the let property as contact addresses for the Land Registry.

Fraudsters impersonating the couple tried to change the named owners on the Land Registry record so they could take over ownership of the let property, but the Land Registry contacted the couple immediately at both addresses and they were able to object to the transfer of ownership and prevent their property from being stolen.

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**Chestfield £220,000**

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**Faversham £124,995**

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**Sittingbourne £159,950**

Two bedroom property which forms part of an Old School Development in Teynham. D/glazing, C/heating, fitted kitchen and bathroom. No chain.

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Extended 3 bedroom home. Great kitchen/dining room, conservatory, garden that backs onto farmland. No chain.

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**Faversham £270,000**

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- Garden to the rear, two bedrooms

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- Viewing essential
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canterburysales@regal-estates.co.ukwww.regalcanterbury.co.uk**CANTERBURY £270,000**

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**LITTLEBOURNE £215,000**

Three bedroom link terrace house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, new bathroom, wired for satellite in all rooms, d/glazing, c/heating, garden, garage, parking. No chain involved. 4

**SOUTH CANTERBURY £169,995**

Investment opportunity four letting rooms, gas fired central heating, balcony, very close to Christ Church University and no chain involved 5

**AYLESHAM £115,500**

Two bedroom home. Lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom, c/heating, UPVC double glazing, two car parking spaces, ideal starter home or investment

**STURRY £229,995**

Four bedroom semi detached home. Lounge, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, bathroom, c/heating, UPVC double glazing, front and rear gardens, garage. MUST BE VIEWED. 7

**ST DUNSTONS £425,000**

Bay fronted Victorian home, many character features remaining. Lounge, drawing room, basement with large fitted kitchen/diner, four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, c/heating, garden and parking.

**CITY CENTRE £289,995**

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**ST DUNSTONS £159,995**

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**ST JACOBS £229,950**

Modern new build family home, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, cloakroom, enclosed rear garden, garage and no forward chain involved.

**SOUTH CANTERBURY OIEO £500,000**

Refurbished family home. Lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, study, cloakroom, bathroom and four bedrooms. Close to popular schools and hospital. No chain involved and keys available.

**BRIDGE £320,000**

Refurbished three bedroom detached bungalow. Two luxury bathrooms, lounge, large fitted kitchen/diner, garden room, sunny aspect gardens, underfloor heater and double garage.

**STURRY £174,995**

Three bedroom semi detached, lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, conservatory, corner suite bathroom, garage/store, porch, south facing rear garden. No chain involved keys available for viewing

**WINCHEAP £235,000**

Three bedroom end of terrace house. Lounge, dining room, study, fitted kitchen, utility room, three piece bathroom, south facing garden with parking for two cars.

**LITTLEBOURNE £215,000**

Four bedroom cottage. 30' lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, bathroom, rewired, 32' cellar, detached garage. No chain involved and keys available to view today. 16

**CHARTHAM £350,000**

Detached riverside residence location approx 3 miles from City Centre. Lounge, dining room, office, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom. Pleasant rear garden views direct over river.

**STURRY £150,000**

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**CANTERBURY £184,995**

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**HALES PLACE £179,995**

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**SOUTH CANTERBURY £275,000**

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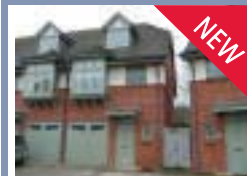







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MOTORS NEWS



Jaguar leaping ahead after its 75th birthday

JAGUAR is celebrating 75 years and a return to the roaring form of its 1960s heyday – the big cat launches an all-new XJ flagship (pictured) soon.

This will epitomise escape from an automotive 'Groundhog Day' of continually attempting to recreate the styling of those Beatles era icons.

Sir William Lyons founded Swallow Sidecars in 1922, but re-named it Jaguar in 1935, to launch the much grander SS 100 sports car, following up with icons like the D and E-Types and original XJ saloon.



Juke is no boring box

NISSAN has evolved rapidly from being the 'boring' car brand to the 'bonkers' one.

The Japanese marque now has an array of eye-catchers from the popular Qashqai crossover, through the intriguing Cube city car/MPV to the GT-R affordable supercar.

But even these are upstaged by a new supermini crossover, the Juke – to be built at Nissan Sunderland.

It should provoke much discussion before arriving in October through its bug-eyed funky chunky styling, designed to appeal particularly to the 'bloke market' in an increasingly effete sector.



A 'Lion king' in waiting

PEUGEOT launches its stunning new RCZ sports car in May, but it has already won an international internet poll – 'most beautiful car of 2009'.

A dream car at a near everyday price, the French lion brand will sell it here for £20,450 and undercut cheapest versions of the rival Audi TT by some £6,000 while offering more standard kit.

The sumptuous interior of last year's 308CC also suggests Peugeot has the handle on the cabin quality needed to complement the RCZ's stunning looks.



MARQUE OF RESPECT: Hyundai have given their Santa Fe a facelift for 2010, and made it even better value than previous versions with only diesel options starting at £21,495

Hyundai's Santa Fe now proud to wear its badge

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI SANTA FE

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

contemporary 'carbon black' and everything feels robust and of decent quality, with many stowage places. Standard kit includes reversing sensors, air con and a sound system with aux/USB connection and full iPod control.

Unfortunately, the indicator stalk is mounted to the right – unlike most of the marque's other models – but this is a small minus against the big plus from a new all-aluminium 194bhp 2.2-litre diesel in this revised car.

Even with the slightly deadening effect of the six-speed auto 'box on the test car (Premium trim five-seat auto £24,745), the Santa Fe feels lively for its size, hitting 62mph in 10.2 seconds while averaging nearly 40mpg – 41.5mpg in manual format.

Electronic stability control (ESP) is standard and handling is impressive; the car's height is not accompanied by unacceptable leaning on bends or, at the other extreme, a hard ride.

Of course, it is more 'soft' than off-roader; but the Santa Fe should tackle rough ground well; it runs mostly in two-wheel drive but switches extra traction to rear wheels when a loss of grip is sensed. If you are really mired though, full four-wheel drive can be selected by a switch on the dash.



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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



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Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 46,500 miles. £8,995

Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic DSG 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Silver Cloth interior, 25,669 miles. £8,495

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Nayar Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 20,695 miles. £8,495

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 24,700 miles. £7,995

Skoda Fabia 1.9 TD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Sports Cross-tuck interior, 42,000 miles. £7,995

Skoda Roomster 1.4 16v 3 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Corrida Red with a Ivory Cloth interior, 42,100 miles. £7,995

Peugeot 307 CC 2.0 16V 180

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Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,572 miles. £6,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Silver Lightning Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,364 miles. £6,995

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 25,400 miles. £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 3,500 miles. £6,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate

Finished in Metro Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth - Leather interior, 29,700 miles. £6,495

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV

Finished in Pearl Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 92,500 miles. £6,295

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback

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Vauxhall Astra 1.8 2-Door Convertible

Finished in Moonland Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 41,000 miles. £5,795

Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16V Design 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Bosa Nove Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 26,500 miles. £5,795

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 Special 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Adriatic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £4,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet

Finished in Artic Steel Metallic with a Grey Cloth - Velour interior, 86,467 miles. £4,495

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Bright Red with a Black Cloth interior, 39,350 miles. £3,995

Fiat Panda 1.1 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Mambo Yellow with a Grey Cloth interior, 52,474 miles. £3,795

Fiat Punto 1.4 Eleganza 3-Door Hatchback

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Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. [†]Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. *£2,500 saving off the RRP is available across the full Skoda range with up to an additional £1,000 off the RRP on selected Octavia models dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 29th February 2000 when traded-in against a new car subject to conditions. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer is subject to availability and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. At participating retailers only. Please see you local retailer for full terms and conditions. Prices are accurate at time of print. Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

VALUE SUPERMINIS

SUPERMINIS are the 'go to' sector for new and used car buyers as the recession forces us all to review our motoring budget. Are there any bargains to be had though, as values continue to rise? Well, there is not much in it, but here are three cars that might fit the bill, being reasonably priced and reliable too – you don't want to save money on a purchase only to have the gains wiped out by more expensive maintenance. They all do their job as small, but roomy all-rounders too...

SKODA FABIA



BADGE snobs have had Skoda jibes stuffed down their throats as the Czech brand continues to score in customer satisfaction surveys – its cars are cheap to repair too. The sweet handling Fabia comes only in five-door hatch and ugly estate formats, but there is plenty of other choice on engine and trim – there is even an impressive diesel vRS hot hatch version. The VW-derived diesels are economy kings, but do not ignore the cheaper to buy petrol models.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI GETZ



REPLACED last year by the stylish i20, the Getz signalled Hyundai's arrival on the European market, with a thoroughly modern supermini. It does not excel in any area really, but neither does the Korean car fall short anywhere either. Sold in three and five-door form with a five-year warranty, it has some engines in road tax band-B, including an efficient diesel. Securing a good deal – with some warranty intact – should not be hard either, though reliability is not a worry.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN MICRA



BORING Nissan? Well, the current Micra has blown that myth apart (pictured). This is the supermini that says you don't have to conform to style to be space-efficient and you don't need a French badge to be chic – although Renault now owns Nissan. The Micra still turns heads and looks 'right' in three or five-door form. It's affordable and reliable, available with excellent diesels and marketed with stylish trim in the dearer versions. There are even some performance models.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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FORD FOCUS LX 1.6 01/V
5dr, Hatchback, Met
Red, FSH, 1 Owner
30,000 Miles, £7999
01234 567890

£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/V, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/V, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
1 Owner, Power Steering, Electric Windows
Sunroof, 30,000 Miles. Tel 01234 567890

£7,995.00

6x2
Max. 25 words

£22
6x2 photo
p/wk



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We can process your payment via telephone, fax, post or email using all major credit cards.



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- HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENCE
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Based on our beautiful farm in Aldington, nr Ashford the successful candidate will form part of our exciting and energetic team.

**Please apply in writing by emailing your CV
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FAO Lee Reid



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We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applications from all groups and communities. All positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure check, satisfactory references, proof of qualifications and a fully checkable work history.

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Telephone 01843 227561, email:
hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk

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Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Treatment Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA • MATERNITY COVER (MIN 6 MONTHS)
30 HOURS PER WEEK • ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM PRO RATA • BASED CANTERBURY / THANET

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

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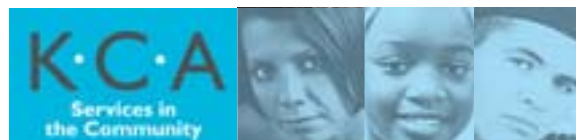
Covering Canterbury and Thanet, we are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 639.

Closing date: Monday 8 March 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



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KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

£20,710 - £26,839 NHS AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 5
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM
FULL-TIME 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK
EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED
BASED IN SITTINGBOURNE

Are you an Occupational Therapist or RMN with CBT experience or a qualified Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP) looking to develop your skills in psychological services? We require an experienced PWP to work within our established IAPT low intensity team in Sittingbourne. You will offer low intensity CBT based interventions to adults experiencing mild mental health issues. You should have a clear understanding of CBT approaches and techniques, low intensity/high volume working, telephone work with clients and a knowledge of current NICE and IAPT guidance. Ref: 616.

Closing date: 26 February 2010. Interview date: 10 March 2010.

**Cognitive Behavioural Therapist,
Couples or Family Therapist –
Step 3 High Intensity**

£29,789 - £39,273 NHS AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 7
(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM
(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)
FULL-TIME 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK OR PART-TIME 18.75 HOURS PER WEEK
EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED
BASED IN RAMSGATE

You will join our IAPT service providing high intensity CBT/Couples/Family interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT/Couples/Family therapy to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent.

A Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Couples or Family Therapy is essential, and you must be accredited or working towards accreditation with the BABCP, or similar. To discuss this role informally, please contact the Service Manager, Lynda Burr on 01843 593832 (Monday, Wednesday or Friday). Ref: 622.

Closing date: 26th February 2010.
Interviews will take place in Ramsgate.

For both posts, an application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS****KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
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- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owner for that advertising.
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- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publication.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
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- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card effective July 2008-June 2009 and reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's agreement. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card effective July 2008-June 2009. Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
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- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
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b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
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d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
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- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owner or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
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Effective from June 2008

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Apply with your CV or letter to:

Gary Wright
Group Editor Midweeks
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Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Appointments are subject to the Swale Carers Centre receiving an enhanced disclosure from the ISA/CRB which is considered acceptable. Swale Carers Centre is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

For further information and an application pack please contact:
Sandie Hornby – Chief Operations Officer: Swale Carers Centre, Suite 9, Bank House, Broadway, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1TW or telephone 01795 583440 or visit www.swalecarers.org.uk

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: 24th February 2010
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For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Tanya Wenham Housing Improvement Manager on 01843 577006 or Richard Hopkins Senior Housing Improvement Officer on 01843 577402.

The closing date for these positions is: Friday 5 March 2010
Interviews will be held: 16,17 and 18 March 2010

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Picture ADY KERRY

**BRACE:** Matt Harper netted two in a comfortable win

Canterbury men bounce back with style

A BRACE from Matt Harper helped Canterbury's men bounce back from their first league defeat of the season in style on Sunday.

A set-back against Old Loughtonians a week earlier saw Kwan Browne's men knocked off the top of the Conference East on goal difference, but they rediscovered their form last weekend.

Goals from Browne and Michael Farrer give Canterbury a 2-0 lead after just 11 minutes and several missed chances ensured the score line was unchanged before half-time.

The visitors pulled a goal back before the

HOCKEY

Canterbury 6 Indian Gymkhana 1

game was livened up by a poor challenge on Chris Laslett, which injected some spice to the game and saw one player sin binned.

Harper made it 3-1 but it was only in the last 13 minutes that Canterbury ran riot. Harper tapped in to make the game safe before a terrific solo effort from Huw Stevens. Mickel Pierre completed the rout, finishing off a great team goal five minutes from time.

Canterbury remained second and even lost ground on goal difference, with Old Loughtonians winning 6-0. Browne's men visit Harleston Magpies this Sunday.

The ladies claimed a decent point in the Premier Division by holding second-placed Reading to a 1-1 draw in Berkshire. Mel Clewlow put the visitors in front at a penalty corner on 13 minutes, but England international Alex Danson leveled after the break.

Canterbury ladies host Clifton at Polo Farm this Saturday, push-back is at 11.45am.

RUGBY

Picture IGOR KUPOKO

**GONE:** Phil Gibson has returned to Australia

Rogers' two tries nets city side win

Henley Hawks 24 Canterbury 31

CANTERBURY showed few signs of being weakened by Phil Gibson's departure as they ran in five tries to beat lowly Henley Hawks on Saturday.

Gibson left the city club last week, returning to Melbourne for personal reasons. It saw Gert De Kock switch to fly-half, allowing teenager Will Alkin to come in at full-back for a promising debut.

Canterbury had been heavily disrupted by the snow, which had postponed their previous game and interfered with training. They trailed to two penalties early on but took the lead with a well-worked try finished off by Tom Rogers, converted by Ben Thomas.

Danny Vaughan's side suffered a surprise loss when the sides met at Merton Lane earlier in the season and they briefly looked to be heading to another defeat as errors gifted the Hawks two tries.

Trailing 18-7, the visitors showed good character to quickly bounce back and go into half-time in front. Carlton Littlechild was the architect for both scores, finished off by De Kock. Thomas kicked the conversions to hand Canterbury a 21-18 lead.

The visitors picked up where they left off, scoring an outstanding try early in the second-half. From a line-out the forwards got a driving maul going, pushing Henley back 18-metres to allow Rogers to touch down. It was the forward's second try of the afternoon and Canterbury's fourth in total, earning them a bonus point.

Canterbury continued to control the game and the pressure eventually told. Pat Sykes made a storming break near the line, before the ball eventually found its way to Rob Keir.

A pair of late penalties got Henley within range, but Canterbury did not look troubled. They stayed sixth in National 2 South ahead of this weekend's home game against Worthing.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

**AMBITIOUS PLANS:** Work will begin at the St Lawrence Ground this summer after the club's acting chief executive Jamie Clifford (right) revealed details of the new housing partner

Clifford: Kent's housing deal is defining moment

THE £8.2 million redevelopment of Kent's St Lawrence Ground is firmly back on track after the club announced a new housing partner this week.

The club were at the advance stages of their ambitious plans to redevelop county headquarters in Canterbury two years ago, but the credit crunch and the loss of housing partner Persimmon halted their progress.

The county have now secured a partnership with Bellway Plc who will now build on two plots of land bought from the club, on the Bat and Ball site and the county's current net practice area.

A planning application will now be submitted to Canterbury City Council, who incidentally loaned Kent £4 million to help with redevelopment costs in November, with the result expected in three months.

For the club's acting chief executive, Jamie

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Clifford, it heralds the end of what he admits has been forced to be a long process.

"I'm sure it's taken a lot longer than the general public would have liked, but realistically these things take time," he said. "Effectively this has taken longer because Persimmon pulled out."

"We have been working on this for a while. We began this process way back when Persimmon pulled out and we put it back out to market and start the whole selection process again. It's taken longer than, in an ideal world, we would have wanted."

The club hope the redevelopment, which includes a hotel, conference facilities, health and fitness centre, stand refurbishment, floodlights and hospitality boxes, will get underway during the summer, but that will be determined

by Bellway, who now own the land.

Clifford said the county are looking forward to working closely with their new housing partners and feels there is finally light at the end of the tunnel, describing the housing deal as a "defining moment."

He said: "It's now up to Bellway as to when they start work and if I'm honest I don't know when that will be, but we will be encouraging them to fit it in around the summer when we have cricket on."

"It feels like the end of the beginning if you like, but what people don't see is all the work leading up to when that digger arrives to start work, which will be a big thing for people at the club."

Jason Green, managing director of Bellway's south east division, added: "The partnership will allow us to continue to develop a range of high quality homes for people in the Canterbury area. The St Lawrence Ground is an iconic venue and presents a wonderful development opportunity."

Big brawl takes gloss off another Bay victory

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Herne Bay 1

Moore pen 12

Greenwich Borough 0

SIMON Moore's first-half penalty extended Herne Bay's winning streak in the league to seven on Saturday but the game was overshadowed by disciplinary problems.

Luke Harvey and Stuart King were sent off for their part in a 22-man brawl in the second-half, while Greenwich Borough also had two dismissed following the melee. The visitors even finished the game with eight men after the referee showed a fifth red card late on.

There was little in the game to suggest it was a tinderbox, but an alleged head butt on Michael Jenner sparked the scuffle, which saw both benches get involved. When it finally died down the referee sent two players off for each side, much to Bay boss Simon Halsey's disbelief.

He said: "The referee will have a lot of paperwork to do. I asked him afterwards how did he make out the sendings off – the two who instigated it were still on the pitch at the end, their



Picture: IOR/KAPCO

OVERREACTION: Bay boss Simon Halsey was left mystified at the decision to send two of his players off

goalkeeper ran 70 yards to throw a punch and finished the game.

"Usually after 30 seconds it packs in but it just seemed to escalate. We stood our ground but a few of their bench started running on and joining in. In that case we had to leave and try to get our players away and into the corner.

"When one of your players gets head butted I have no problem with them standing up to it. I expect them to be round there getting him away as quickly as possible. I certainly don't

Herne Bay starting XI



Subs used: Crofts (Marsden 70), Gess (M. Turner)

want them going in swinging punches, I haven't seen anyone do anything, it was the normal pushing and shoving. I'm really surprised four players were sent off, I thought it was an overreaction."

The game itself was fairly even, with both sides struggling on a heavy pitch. Bay began brightly and were rewarded with a penalty after 12 minutes when Darren Marsden was felled in the box, with Moore converting.

Borough were awarded a penalty of their own on the half hour mark but Dan Eason easily kept out Mark Sisson's weak effort.

Both goalkeepers had precious little to do for the rest of the game, which was soured by the flurry of dismissals late on.

Harvey and King will both be missing for three games, which will hardly help Bay's title chances despite the side coping well with the duo's absence earlier in the season.

Hythe Town are to visit Winch's Field this evening. Log on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk tomorrow for the details.

FOOTBALL



Picture: PER LALENG

PRO: Ian Pulman is back from a spell in Australia

Striker's back to give Oystemen a much needed boost

IAN Pulman's return to the Whitstable Town first-team was delayed last weekend after the trip to Whyteleafe was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

The striker instead made his first appearance of the season in an Oystermen shirt for the reserves, scoring one and making another in a 2-2 draw with Chatham.

Pulman's addition to the squad provides a much needed boost to Town, who slipped to the foot of the Ryman South courtesy of Ashford Town's victory on Saturday. The 25-year-old left Kent with his girlfriend last May with vague plans of playing for a club Down Under. A friend helped get him a trial with Melbourne Knights, a side in the Victorian Premier League (VPL), Australia's second division. Within two days the former Chelsea youngster was offered a contract.

Pulman said: "I wanted to play at a decent level, but to play at that level was excellent. I was based in Melbourne for six months, playing in front of big crowds up to about 5,500. It was full-time, training nearly every day so it was a great experience."

Coming from English football's eighth tier, Pulman revelled playing at a higher level and fellow VPL side Oakleigh Cannons offered him a contract for the new season, which starts this month. Visa complications mean he cannot return until May, but the striker advised anyone playing at the same level in England to give it a try.

He said: "If you can get the opportunity to do it, do it. It's hard being away from your family and friends but at the same time you're living a really good life, so you've got to make a decision."

Weather permitting, Whitstable were to host Burgess Hill Town at the Belmont last night. Log on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk for the details.

LEAGUE TABLES

(All tables before midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	26	18	5	3	+20	59
2 Croydon Athletic	26	16	6	4	+31	54
3 Fleet Town	27	15	3	9	+17	48
4 Godalming Town	25	15	3	7	+15	48
5 Worthing	27	15	3	9	+13	48
6 Walton & Hersham	26	13	5	8	+7	44
7 Sittingbourne	25	12	5	8	+16	41
8 Burgess Hill Town	27	11	8	8	+7	41
9 Horsham YMCA	29	9	11	9	+5	38
10 Leatherhead	25	11	4	10	+11	37
11 Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	10	9	0	37
12 Merstham	27	10	6	11	-7	36
13 Chatham Town	28	11	3	14	-1	36
14 Ramsgate	26	9	8	9	-2	35
15 Metropolitan Police	25	9	7	9	+10	34
16 Corinthian-Casuals	28	10	3	15	-11	33
17 Whyteleafe	26	9	5	12	+2	32
18 Chipstead	28	7	6	15	-14	27
19 Walton Casuals	27	6	6	15	-14	24
20 Eastbourne Town	28	4	9	15	-29	21
21 Ashford Town	25	4	8	13	-32	20
22 Whitstable Town	25	6	2	17	-34	20

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Faversham Town	20	16	2	2	+38	50
2 Herne Bay	17	13	1	3	+19	40
3 Hythe Town	15	9	4	2	+27	31
4 Beckenham Town	18	9	3	6	+12	30
5 Erith & Belvedere	19	9	3	7	-3	30
6 Erith Town	17	8	3	6	+6	27
7 Greenwich Borough	18	7	5	6	+3	26
8 Sevenoaks Town	15	7	3	5	+3	24
9 Deal Town	15	6	4	5	-3	22
10 Tunbridge Wells	19	5	7	7	-6	22
11 Sporting Bengal Utd	17	6	4	11	-23	22
12 Holmesdale	17	5	2	10	-4	17
13 Norton Sports	14	5	1	8	-5	16
14 Fisher	20	3	4	13	-25	13
15 Corinthian	18	3	3	12	-20	12
16 Lordswood	17	1	7	9	-20	10

KENT COUNTY LEAGUE DIVISION ONE EAST

1 Stansfeld O&B Club	21	15	3	3	+27	48
2 Hollands & Blair	18	12	4	2	+20	40
3 Sutton Athletic	19	12	3	4	+25	39
4 Phoenix Sports	16	11	3	2	+18	36
5 Rusthall	20	10	3	7	+10	33
6 Canterbury City	17	9	1	7	+10	28
7 Fleet Leisure	17	8	4	5	+3	28
8 Bly Spartans	16	8	1	7	-1	25
9 Bearsted	17	6	5	6	-1	23
10 Snodland	20	6	4	10	-12	22
11 Lewisham Borough	19	6	2	11	-11	20
12 Tonbridge Invicta	19	5	4	10	-13	19
13 Orpington	21	4	4	13	-17	16
14 Coney Hall	20	5	0	15	-26	15
15 Cray Valley (PM)	15	4	2	9	+1	14
16 Milton & Fulston U	17	3	1	13	-31	10

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Division One South: Walton Casuals v Whitstable Town; Kent League Premier Division: Herne Bay v Erith Town; Kent County League Premier Division: Canterbury City v Tonbridge Invicta

City's promotion hopes all but ended by champions

FOOTBALL

Hollands & Blair 1 Canterbury City 0

ANY lingering promotion hopes Canterbury City still held were largely extinguished on Saturday as they were out-muscled by defending County League champions Hollands & Blair on Saturday.

Although the visitors kept the score down and might have scraped a draw, a weakened team only put sustained pressure on the powerful home side for about ten minutes in the first-half.

Without injured strikers Wayne Fittall and Dave Read, City boss Dave Fairclough employed a five-man midfield and left Royston Gough as the lone front man.

The system was designed to contain Hollands & Blair and perhaps profit from counter-attacks, but apart from in the early stages, City were rarely able to support Gough. They were also guilty of playing too many aimless high balls out of defence that by-passed the midfield altogether.

The home side took the lead through Ricky Freeman after 16 minutes. City fought back and made several chances, Gough seeing one shot just drift wide of the post.

In the second-half the sheer strength of Hollands & Blair, combined with their tidy football on a potato field of a pitch, left City clutching at fading hopes of snatching a point as they spent most of their efforts on keeping the deficit down to one.

The defeat left City sixth in the County League's Premier Division, 20 points behind



Picture: DAVID MULLANEY

ISOLATED: Lone City striker Royston Gough

leaders Stansfeld O&B Club.

City are at home to Tonbridge Invicta on Saturday, kick-off is at 2.45pm.

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